



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, February 11, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Farmers advocate for grassroots policy initiatives in meetings with state leaders

To ensure an agriculture-friendly future, 154 farmers from 50 counties met with lawmakers representing both rural and urban districts on Jan. 23 as part of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's annual Legislative Day.

Participants chose issues to discuss with legislators, including meat processing expansion, FFA funding, and aerial application among other policy initiatives developed through year-round grassroots activities.

When retail meat shelves emptied during the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers sought locally raised beef. This intense demand created bottlenecks at Virginia's few processing facilities. Market-ready cattle are still being turned away because processors are at capacity.

Among others, Farm Bureau representatives met with the staffs of Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, R-Henrico, and Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-Harrisonburg to request an additional \$1.25 million to support the expansion of Virginia's meat processing industry.

"As a beef producer, this is a serious situation," said Jessica Pittman of Hanover County. "I've had to drive 3½ hours just to get an appointment while there are processors much closer to my house."

Sen. Obenshain met with Shenandoah County Farm Bureau members to discuss FFA funding needs.



COURTESY VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Advocating for an agriculture-friendly future, 154 farmers from 50 Virginia counties met with lawmakers in Richmond on Jan. 23 as part of Virginia Farm Bureau's annual Legislative Day.

Ashley Kuhler recalled visiting Obenshain's office while advocating for FFA in high school and as a state FFA officer.

"You always supported FFA," she said. "But students have to pay membership dues. We'd like to see that membership 100% paid because we have over 32,000 ag students in Virginia, but only 13,000 of them are FFA members. It's a small barrier to entry at \$12, but growing up, I couldn't always afford that."

Obenshain said the initiative is a great way to support the next generation of farmers and industry leaders.

Advocates from Southwest Virginia met with regional lawmakers and discussed a bill more strictly regulating aerial application of crop protectants. Christmas trees grown on the steep pastureslands of Grayson County, for example, are treated by air, since heavy equipment

See Farmers, page 4



A scene from a production of "Akutagawa."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA OKUDA

Production combines traditional Japanese puppetry, ingenious artistry, and contemporary staging

Magic abounds through tales of the supernatural presented with beautifully detailed miniature sets, extraordinary effects, and ingenious artistry. Created by Japanese master puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V and American puppet artist Tom Lee, a new stage work uses bunraku-inspired puppets, video projection, and live music to explore the creative process of Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, one of Japan's leading literary figures.

The Moss Arts Center presents three performances of "Akutagawa" on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The

performances will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Considered the father of the Japanese short story, author Ryūnosuke Akutagawa is most widely known in the West through Akira Kurosawa's landmark film, "Rashōmon," based on the author's work "In the Bamboo Grove." This stage production of "Akutagawa" is an international theatrical collaboration showcasing the limitless storytelling possibilities of puppetry. Featuring narration in English, the production reimagines and excerpts

several of Akutagawa's best-known works, offering an intimate window into the mind of an immensely talented, complicated artist who took his own life at the age of 35. (Please be advised that this performance contains a reference to suicide.)

The production features kuruma ningyō, a unique and vibrant puppetry tradition created by Koryū Nishikawa I in Japan 170 years ago. While bunraku puppetry requires three puppeteers to manipulate one puppet, kuruma ningyō requires only one. The style gets its name because it involves a puppeteer sitting on

See Production, page 4

Forest Service plans prescribed burns for upcoming spring season

This spring, firefighters across the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest plan to conduct prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels, restore wildlife habitat, and improve overall forest health.

Fire managers plan to burn up to 32,310 acres across the forest. Some of these prescribed burns are conducted through partnerships with the Virginia Department of Forestry, Nature Conservancy, and others.

Each prescribed burn is designed to accomplish specific objectives related to increasing forest health. Prescribed

See Burns, page 4



SUBMITTED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Prescribed burns across the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest are used by firefighters to improve the overall health of the forest.

VDACS accepting applications for specialty crop block grants

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is accepting applications through Feb. 27 for nearly \$550,000 in specialty crop block grant funding to increase the competitiveness of Virginia specialty crops.

Specialty crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops including floriculture that are typically covered by traditional crop insurance. Specialty crops do not include standard commodities such as corn, wheat, soybeans, peanuts, cotton, and/or tobacco. Processed foods are eligible, provided their development enhances the competitiveness of one or more specialty crops.

Agricultural associations, industry and producer groups, localities, community-based organizations,

educational institutions, and non-profits are eligible for this grant opportunity. Individual producers are not eligible for this grant.

Eligible groups must submit proposals for grants of up to \$75,000 per project by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023.

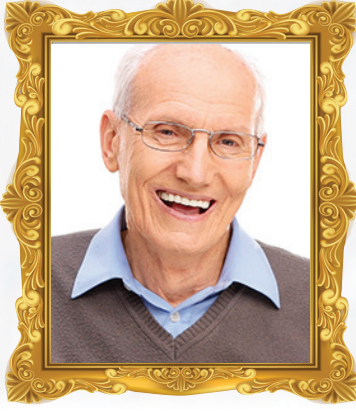
Specialty crop competitive grant proposals must be specific and explain how an association, industry group, or organization will use the funds to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Some examples include research, promotion, and marketing plans, as well as food safety projects and projects that improve food access.

In awarding the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds, VDACS will

See VDACS, page 4

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

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrvalley.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 11:

Free Tax Assistance with NRCA
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for 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; 11 a.m. Enjoy the animated sequel “Addams Family 2.” Take a road trip with this quirky family in a haunted camper. Rated PG; 93 minutes.

Grownup Board Game Club
At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend, bring a board game, or just bring yourself to get some quality board-gaming time in at the library! We have a collection of games here, but you’re welcome to bring something from home and teach us how to play it.

Monday, Feb. 13:

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month 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 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.

Valentines Crafternoon: Valentine’s Cards
At the Radford Public Library; 1 – 2 p.m. Make a hearty card for your Valentine’s Day love using buttons and creativity! Supplies provided.

RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the Radford High School Library, 50 Dalton Drive, Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.
We hope to see you there!

Tuesday, Feb. 14:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month 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 televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents 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 on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Mr. 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 cancelled. For further information, please 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 we will be exploring the feasts and festivals of different countries. This month we are celebrating Valentine’s Day in South Korea. Pick up a Valentine’s Day craft kit that also includes fun information about the holiday. Supplies limited.

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

NRCC offering free health screenings
New River Community College practical nursing students host Love Your Health event, where anyone can stop by several 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.

Street Photography program
Part two of the Radford Photo Club’s programs on Street Photography will continue at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Thursday, Feb. 16:

Radford Reads with Stephen Skripak
At the Radford Public Library; 6 – 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 open to the public.

Community Quilting Bee
At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – noon. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Friday, Feb. 17:

NRCC offering free health screenings
New River Community College practical nursing students host Love Your Health Event. 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.

Blacksburg AARP to present February program
The Blacksburg chapter of AARP will present its February chapter program from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community room of the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr.; Blacksburg. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Ayares, President and Chief Scientific Officer for Revivacor, Inc. His topic will be “Xenotransplantation: The Solution for Overcoming the Organ Shortage Crisis.” Non-members are welcome. Donuts, coffee, and hot tea will be available. Guests can also bring a bag lunch if they would like.

Saturday, Feb. 18:

Free Tax Assistance with NRCA
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for 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 – 4:30 p.m. Come learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Ages 8+ all skill levels welcome. Supplies provided.

Tuesday, Feb. 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. You won’t want to miss this. Tickets available online, at the Hurlburt Hall Information Desk or by calling 540-831-5420.

Monday, Feb. 27:

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month 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 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. 28:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month 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 televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Thursday, Mar. 2:

Crab Creek Watershed Project kick-off meeting
Come to the Crab Creek Watershed Project Kick-Off Meeting to learn about how to get involved and receive funding to install watershed-friendly landscaping on your property! At the Loft at Great Road on Main (100 W Main St. Christiansburg); 6 – 7 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 9:

River City Quilt Guild
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you.

See Upcoming events, page 4



Marketplace





Positions Wanted

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

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,



Legals - Montgomery County

LOCATED AT: 55 EAST MAIN STREET, 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.



Legals - Montgomery County

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



Legals - Montgomery County

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

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, CLERRK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:15



Legals - Montgomery County

p.m., or soon thereafter, to receive public comment on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County Of Montgomery, Virginia by Creating Division 11, Entitled Cigarette Tax Sections 2-190 through 2-203 in order to Establish, Administer and Create a tax at the rate of forty cents (\$0.40) for each package containing twenty (20) cigarettes and two cents (\$0.02) for each cigarette contained in a package of fewer or more than twenty cigarettes sold or used within the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery, Virginia. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS F. Craig Meadows County Administrator

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



Legals - Montgomery County

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Doris Caldwell of Christiansburg will be crowned Valentine Queen for Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023 at the Farmhouse Restaurant.

Christiansburg sorority chapter to crown Valentine queen

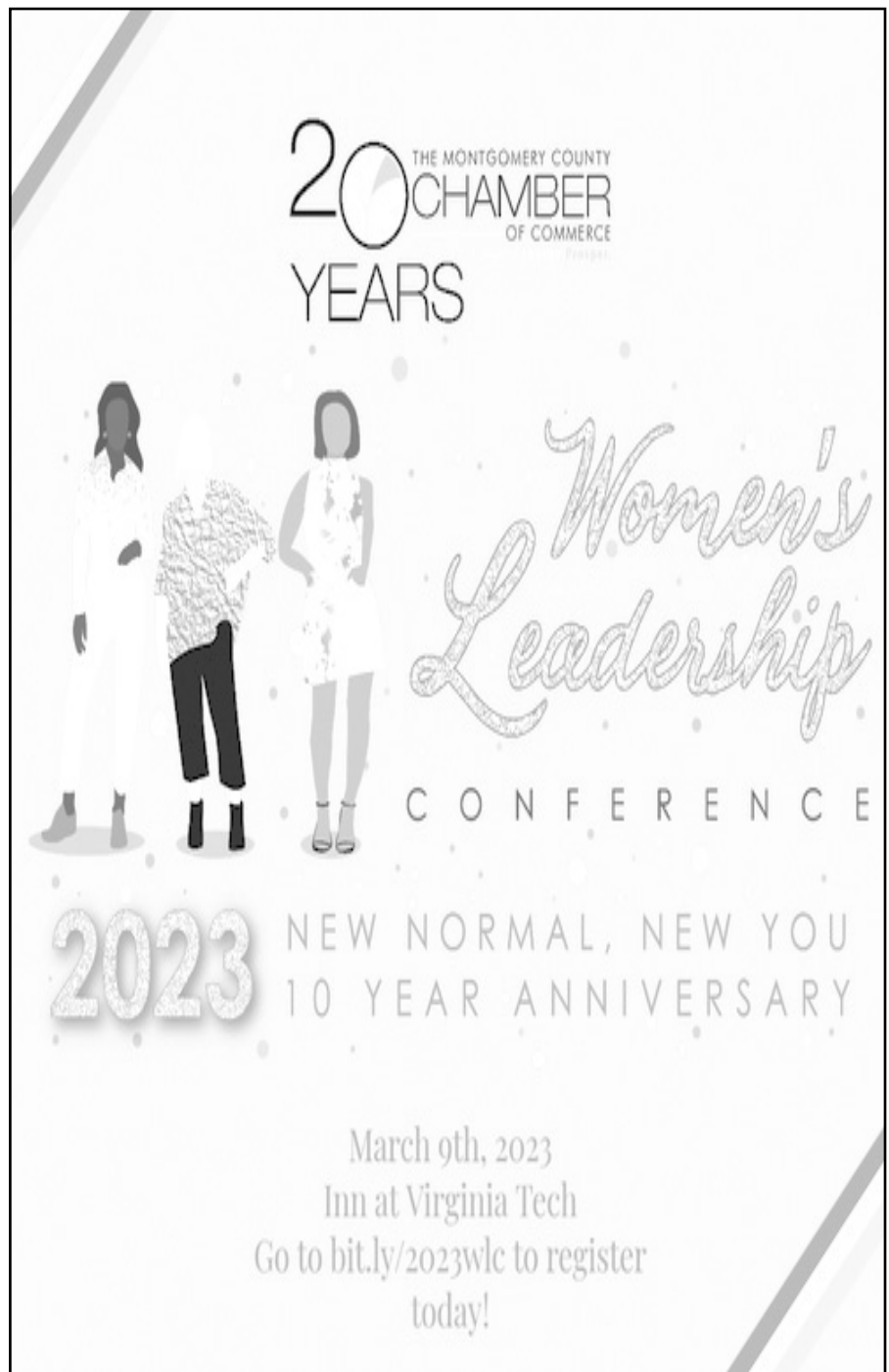
The Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Christiansburg will crown Doris Caldwell its Valentine Queen on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at The Farmhouse Restaurant.

Caldwell has been an active Beta Sigma Phi member since she joined Iota Beta Chapter in Leesburg, Florida in 2012. She transferred membership to Christiansburg's Alpha Mu Master in 2021 and is currently serving on the program, social, and service committees. Caldwell is a retired teacher who

enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, traveling, and her role as grandma to seven and great-Grandma to two.

Caldwell will be crowned by Kristen Talley, last year's queen, following a welcome by Carolyn K. Sowers. The honoree will be escorted by her son, Chris Caldwell.

~ Submitted by Carolyn K. Sowers of Beta Sigma Phi



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONT. CO. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PHOTO BY ALYSSA DUONG FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Graduate students participate in a Center for Communicating Science workshop in preparation for the Nutshell Games.

Nutshell Games offer a fun speaking competition for graduate research students

By Felicia Spencer
Virginia Tech

Are cows afraid of the dark? Are bees OK with weed killer? Do mothers really know best?

These are only a few of the research topics that were explained as 30 Virginia Tech graduate students compete for \$500 in professional development funding in this year's Nutshell Games.

For the seventh year, the annual event will task students with presenting their research projects using everyday language and a prop in just 90 seconds. A panel of seven judges from the university and surrounding community will evaluate their presentations and award five winners. All participants receive a participation certificate and professional-quality video recording of their talk.

The Nutshell Games are one of the signature events of the Center for Communicating Science. In its sixth year, the center provides experiential learning opportunities for researchers to communicate their work in clear, concise, everyday language to audiences outside their specialties. Patty Raun, director of the center, uses the tools of the theater to help participants discover ways to connect authentically with their

audiences.

"My goal for all of the work of the center is to cultivate empathy, broaden perspectives, and strengthen collaboration to bridge the divides that keep us from understanding one another," Raun said.

Raun and Carrie Kroehler, associate director of the center, teach graduate courses and facilitate workshops throughout the year to help professionals learn to listen deeply, interact personally and responsively, and express themselves vividly.

This year's Nutshell Games were a part of ComSciCon-Virginia

Tech 2023 from Feb. 6-9. A virtual science communication conference for graduate students, ComSciCon is open to all faculty, students, and community members and includes workshops and a keynote speaker.

"ComSciCon is organized by graduate students for graduate students and others," said Kroehler. "We thought it would be meaningful to highlight the research and communication skills of Virginia Tech's graduate students by scheduling the Nutshell Games to coincide with other ComSciCon-Virginia Tech 2023 events."

Meridian Waste's Ashleigh Garnes, a VT graduate, named to 40 under 40 awards list

CHRISTIANSBURG — Meridian Waste, the primary environmental services provider for Virginia Tech, has announced that General Manager and Virginia Tech graduate Ashleigh Garnes has been named to Waste360's 2023 40 Under 40 awards list. This list showcases the next generation of leaders in waste and recycling who are shaping the future of the industry.

Garnes has been in the environmental services industry for five years after being recruited by Meridian Waste for her leadership in the community, sales experience, comprehensive business and personal network, impressive energy, and commitment to quality work.

Throughout the partnership with Virginia Tech, Garnes has become a board member of the Climate Action Commitment Team, composed of Virginia Tech leadership, students, and the community. They have increased the recycling of old corrugated cardboard, single stream recycling, and compost with an increase from 29 percent to 43 percent.

The collaboration with Virginia Tech stakeholders has allowed Garnes to establish new opportunities and events, and to serve as a voice in the new construction of buildings. She oversees the Meridian Waste team and their work objectives, accomplishments, and diligence in achieving a common goal.

"Ashleigh is a woman succeeding in a predominantly male-dominated industry," said Mary O'Brien, Meridian Waste's Chief Marketing Officer. "Her approach includes learning the business from the ground up and understanding and respecting each employee as they positively impact the success of the company along with the customers they serve," O'Brien said. "Her energy and passion for the community and Virginia Tech as her alma mater is proven in her work product."

The Waste360 40 Under 40 awards program recognizes inspiring and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MERIDIAN WASTE

VT graduate and Meridian Waste general manager Ashleigh Garnes has been named to Waste 360's 40 under 40 awards list. The list recognizes the next generation of leaders in waste and recycling.

innovative professionals under the age of 40 whose work in the waste and recycling industry has made a significant contribution to the industry. The winners are involved in every part of the waste and recycling industry, including haulers, municipalities, composters, recycling professionals, policymakers, and product suppliers. A panel of expert judges from Waste360 evaluated the nominations and consulted with an external advisor to select the finalists and winners.

The winners will be honored during an awards ceremony at WasteExpo, North America's largest solid waste, recycling, and organics industry event to be held from May 1 until May 4 in New Orleans.

~ Submitted by Bonnie Hayflick; PR Counsel

Blacksburg Business License Reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2023 are due by Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts.

Tax and fees must be filed and paid by March 1, 2023 to avoid late filing and late payment penalties of 10% each and 10% interest.

Renewal forms were mailed in early January. If you have not received the form, email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.

TOWN OF
Blacksburg
VIRGINIA

Upcoming events

from page 2

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

Women’s Leadership Conference
At the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. The deadline to register is March 2. Register at <https://montgomerychamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/9932>

On-going:

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

VDACS

from page 1

give priority to projects with the sole purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops as they pertain to the following issues:

Enhancing food safety; investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes; developing

new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; Improving pest and disease control; Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems; and Enhancing sustainability.

Guidelines, instructions, and the

Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years’ graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. In an effort to keep project costs affordable, it is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned before donation, though it is not required. For more information, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Blacksburg 2023 Citizens Institute
Want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for

the 2023 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning April 6, from 6 – 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older, and residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register, call the Community Relations Office at 540-443-1090 or email cro@blacksburg.gov.

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

VDACS

from page 1

give priority to projects with the sole purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops as they pertain to the following issues:

Enhancing food safety; investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes; developing

new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; Improving pest and disease control; Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems; and Enhancing sustainability.

Guidelines, instructions, and the

application for the USDA Specialty Crop Competitive Grants are available online at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/sales-specialty-crop-competitive-grant-program.shtml, via e-mail to Melissa Ball at melissa.ball@vdacs.virginia.gov or by mailing VDACS, Specialty Crop Grants Application, 102 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Applications received after 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, will not be considered for funding. The duration of each grant is two years, and the grant period will begin Oct. 1, 2023.

- Virginia Dept. of Agriculture

Burns

from page 1

burns will be conducted only under appropriate conditions to ensure safety. Those appropriate conditions include correct temperature and wind, fuel moisture,

and ventilation for smoke. When these criteria are met, firefighters implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets forest health and public safety goals, including air quality.

“Historically, fire has played a vital role in shaping the forest and its ecosystems,” said Forest Supervisor Joby Timm. “Today, forest managers utilize prescribed burns to imitate the periodic fire that many plants and animals rely on. Prescribed fire is utilized to better protect communities by removing the amount of downed fuel and reducing the potential of large, high-

intensity wildfires.”
Prescribed burns yield multiple forest health benefits. They help remove competing vegetation, which allows remaining trees to grow faster and be more resistant to pests and disease. Prescribed burns also create areas where a diverse mix of grasses, plants, and wildflowers grow, which provides valuable food and cover for wildlife such as bears, deer, turkeys, and migratory birds.

- Submitted by George Washington and Jefferson National Forest supervisor’s office

News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Ed McMinn, *Editor*
editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*
communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*
aboyn@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*
advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

Production

from page 1

a “kuruma” (cart) and manipulating the “ningyō” (puppet).

Master puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V is the fifth-generation master of Hachioji Kuruma Ningyō. He received training in cart puppetry from his father, Koryū Nishikawa IV, and later in bunraku-style puppetry at the National Bunraku Theater. He is one of a small number of puppeteers who manipulates both types of puppets.

Tom Lee is an Asian American designer, director, and puppet artist who has performed on Broadway in “War Horse” and at the Metropolitan Opera in “Madama Butterfly,” in addition to creating critically acclaimed original work

fusing technology and contemporary puppetry techniques.

Nishikawa V and Lee are co-creators of “Akutagawa” and will both perform as puppeteers. Music for the production is composed and performed live by Yukio Tsuji, a resident composer of La MaMa Experimental Theater known for his work on Al Pacino’s “Salome,” and in the original Broadway production of Steven Sondheim’s “Pacific Overtures.”

Recommended for ages 14 and up, this engagement of “Akutagawa” is made possible in part through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment

for the Arts.

Related events
Join a discussion with co-creators Nishikawa V and Lee as they delve into their long collaborative relationship and the development of “Akutagawa” on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center’s Cube. The event is free and is open to the public, but registration is required.

Virginia Tech students in the Japanese House of the Mozaiko international living-learning community will learn about the history and contemporary practice of kuruma ningyō puppetry from the creators of “Akutagawa.”

Nishikawa V will lead a lecture-demonstration for a Japanese course

in Virginia Tech’s Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, as well as a workshop on kuruma ningyō puppetry for students at Christiansburg Middle School.

Tickets
Tickets for the performance are \$30 for general admission and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center’s box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

- Virginia Tech

Farmers

from page 1

can’t traverse the terrain. A newly introduced House bill says civil penalties will result from improper notification of aerial pesticide treatments.

“There’s a short window of application time,” said Adam Wilson

of Washington County. “And if you have to wait seven days for a permit and then the wind’s not right, they won’t spray, and be booked for other jobs within the next seven days.”

Del. Jeffrey Campbell, R-Marion, said responsible producers should

not be penalized for others’ irresponsible actions.

“We want people to have the freedom to farm, obviously,” he said. “But in a responsible fashion so it’s not impacting others choosing to farm in the area.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		
			10				11							
12	13		14					15						
16		17						18			19	20	21	
22								23						
24							25		26		27			
						28		29			30			
31	32	33			34				35		36			
37			38			39								
40					41			42		43	44	45	46	47
48				49					50					
51									52					
			53						54			55		
			56					57		58				
			59						60					

CLUES ACROSS

1. One point east of due south

4. City in Maine

10. Inquire too closely

11. Make dirty

12. Small Greek island

14. Bitterly regret

15. Millisecond

16. ___ the ante

18. Without value

22. Eurasian ryegrass

23. Authentic

24. Having a mournful quality

26. Not out

27. Salvador ___, Spanish artist

28. Cargo (abbr.)

30. This (Spanish)

31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

34. Slang for trucks with trailers

36. Helps you hear

37. Steer a boat

39. British School

40. Genus of olive

41. Computer term (abbr.)

42. Horse gear

48. Give off

50. A type of salt

51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

52. One who watches birds

53. Sailboat

54. A major division of geological time

55. Sodium

56. American state

58. Soak in water

59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood

60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

1. One of the four seasons

2. Its sultan is famous

3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye

4. College degree

5. Soldiers need it

6. Japanese car manufacturer

7. A way to address

8. Obstruct

9. Atomic number 45

12. Ill-mannered

13. Opaque gem

17. Indicates before

19. Remove

20. Populous Argentine city

21. More cunning

25. Rich dessert

29. Payment (abbr.)

31. Footwear

32. Famed Alabama city

33. Sheep’s cry

35. Arrogance

38. Clergical vestment

41. Serving no practical purpose

43. An evening party

44. Print errors

45. Not good

46. Egyptian Sun god

47. Industrial German city

49. Scottish island

56. Early multimedia

57. Atomic number 18

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY

YOU LIKE IT!



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00

PRINT ONLY

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

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

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

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

OBITUARIES

Adkins, Melissa Ann

Melissa Ann Adkins, 52 of Christiansburg, passed away on Feb. 5, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Lucas, Sr. and Geraldine Lucas. Melissa is survived by her children, Kristian Adkins, Jonathan Adkins, Ashley Tincher, and Travis Harvey; grandchildren, Haley Weddle, Kaelyn Weddle, Triston Adkins, Alexander Adkins, and James Tincher; and brothers, John Lucas, Jr. and Steven Lucas. Per Melissa's wishes there will be no services. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home and Crematory.

Bethea, George Nelson

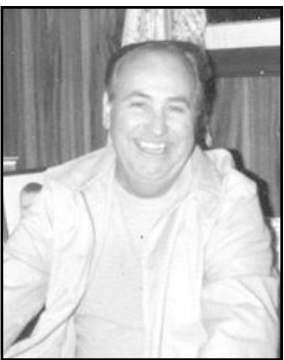
George Nelson Bethea, 71, passed away on Feb. 7, 2023. He was a lifelong resident of Radford and was the retired owner with his brother of the Southwest Virginia Tobacco Company and recently was employed with Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in guest services. George was a kind and gentle man and an avid sports fan who loved the Redskins, the Yankees, and the Hokies. He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Delma Bethea; a brother, John S. Bethea; and a niece, Elizabeth Paige Bethea. Survivors include his nephew, John S.



Bethea (Samer Katicha); a sister, Hazel Long (Ron) and their children Kimberly, Victoria, Allison, Megan, and Gabe; a sister-in-law, Judy Bethea; many other great-nieces and great-nephews, and other relatives and friends. The family received friends on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at Grace Episcopal Church in Radford. Memorial services followed with the Rev. William Yagel officiating. The Bethea family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Cromer, Marvin Anderson

Marvin Anderson Cromer, 91, son, Robbie Cromer; grandchildren Robert Drake Euler and Courtney Cromer, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Graveside service were conducted Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Westview Cemetery with the Pastor, Wes Conner officiating.



Eanes, Darryl

Darryl Eanes, 56, of Blanche Eanes; grandmother Sylvia Morehead, better known as Mamaw Head; aunt Helen Crawford, and uncle Earl Moore. He is survived by his wife, Debra Eanes of Christiansburg; his oldest son, Brandon Eanes, and his wife Ashley, of Martinsville; and his youngest son, See **Obituaries**, page 6



ANGLICAN CATHOLIC
St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook
St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.
St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 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 Hersherberger, 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 Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburg-cob.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

WORDS OF RELIEF

Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

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 luthmemorialblacksburg@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@stmcl.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

Obituaries

from page 5

Travis Eanes and his wife, Casey, of Dublin. He was blessed with his precious grandchildren Treavor, Logan, Kylie, and Harper.

He is also survived by his loving mother, Lorene Eanes, of Radford; brother Scott Eanes, of Radford; and brother Richard Eanes and his wife, Sue, of Christiansburg.

He had a special bond with his aunt, Betty Ann Moore, of Radford; and his uncle and aunt, Billie Eanes and Marie. He was more of a little brother to his aunt, Kathy Dawson, of Colorado, and older brother to his niece, Jessica Martin, and her husband, Scott, of Radford.

He loved all his nieces and nephews: Patrick Eanes and his wife, Saera, and daughter and son, Ellie and Link; Justin Eanes and

his girlfriend, Briana; Natasha Neel, Chelsey Gravely and fiancé Dustin Andrews with daughters Renesmae and Willow, and Mason Martin.

He was loved by father and mother-in-law Sebert and Jean Rorrer, of Radford; brother-in-law Mike Rorrer and wife, Marie, of Christiansburg, Bill Rorrer and wife, Ellen, of Christiansburg, and Mark Rorrer of Radford.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Beaver Terry officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunset Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg.

Slomka, Lisa Marie Bane

Lisa Marie Bane Slomka, 60, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at her home in Dublin. She graduated from Pulaski County High School in 1981, was employed with H. H. Hunt Corporation in Accounts Payable and attended First Dublin Presbyterian Church. Lisa was preceded in death by her father, Harvey Randall Bane; her former husband, Joseph Thomas Slomka, Jr.; and their son who was the light of her life, Joseph Thomas Slomka, III (Joey).

Lisa's bright light and big heart has left us way too soon. She will always be remembered for her loving and caring nature and her sense of humor. She never met a stranger and always enjoyed sharing a funny story or a joke. Lisa treasured the little moments in life; especially times with her mom at Kroger on "coupon days" and day trips with her sisters. She was happiest when she had the opportunity to celebrate life events with her family and friends. She also cherished her fur babies; Blaize, Sneeze, Pearl, and Minnie. Lisa loved God, her fiancé, her family, and her friends deeply and is now reunited in heaven with her



dad and her son, Joey, whom she missed so much.

She is survived by her fiancé, Cecil "Buck" Ratliff; mother, Barbara Reed Bane; sisters, Sandra White and Patricia Johnson (Jerry); nieces, Amanda Hall (Brian) and Alyson Chrisley (Sabrina); nephew, Steven White (Nichole); great-nephews, Rhys and Coen White; great-niece, Keelyn Hall; and many other relatives and friends.

Graham, Maynard "Jack" Eugene

Maynard "Jack" Eugene Graham, 68, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at his home. He was born on Sept. 17, 1954, to the late John and Emily Duncan Graham. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Larry Graham.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Long Graham; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Russell Coble; stepson, John Vaught; and other family members.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. The family received friends Thursday evening at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023, at First Dublin Presbyterian Church. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Mary Ann Armbrister officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens.

Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made to: First Dublin Presbyterian Church, 409 Church St., Dublin, VA 24084 or The Compassionate Friends of Roanoke Valley, 2408 Electric Rd., Cave Spring, VA 24018

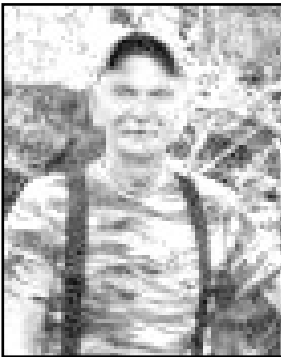
Lisa and her family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Myers, Ronald W.

Ronnie Myers left his earthly life on Friday, February 3, 2023, surrounded by his family at his home. He was met at Heaven's Gate by his father and mother, Oakley and Lillian Myers, his two brothers, Melvin Myers and Jack Myers; and his sister Joline Fisher.

He is survived by Peggy Myers, his wife of 10 years; Ronda and Phil Carr, his daughter and son-in-law; Dawn and Eric Underwood, his daughter and son-in-law; and Brian and Bobbi Myers, his son and daughter-in-law. Also left to cherish his memory are Adrian and Emilee Turner, his grandson and wife; Haley Myers, his granddaughter; and Micah Turner, his great grandson; Clarice Vaught, his sister; and Patricia and Steve Irvin, sister and brother-in-law; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition, he leaves special friends and honorary family, Polly Myers, Buck and Leigh Ann Matherly, Teresa "Sissy" and Walker Moore, Samantha Moore, Jonathan Howell, Josh Howell, Larry and Cathy Cook, and Darlene Wirt, and his many friends at the Old Timers Sportsman Club.



he grew up learning to love God and cherishing his Christian friends. He loved music and was known to play mandolin and banjo and was invited to play in the occasional gig. You could also find Ronnie out on the open road riding his motorcycle. Ronnie had a sense of humor that put a smile on your face and a loving nature that filled your heart with joy.

Vaughn, Mark Dwayne

Mark Dwayne Vaughn, 63, of Radford, born on Sept. 19, 1959, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 3, 2023.

Mark was preceded in death by his father, Harold Vaughn; and his former wife and mother of his children, Ann Vaughn.

Left to cherish memories of him are his son, Derek Vaughn; his daughter, Ashley Lytton (Keith); grandsons Zach Vaughn and Caleb Lytton; mother Corrine Vaughn; brothers Jody Vaughn (Sherri), Josh Vaughn (Kim); sister, Angie Rutledge (Thom) and many nieces, nephews, and great-nephews and great-nieces who will all deeply miss him.

Mark was a devoted father and grandfather. He loved watching his grandson play sports and often practiced with him. He appreciated the outdoors, enjoyed grilling out, watching football, listening to music, and spending time with the ones he loved.

Mark graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1977 where he developed his love of sports and played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track. He also has a passion for coaching youth in football at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.



Mark owned and operated multiple construction businesses throughout his life.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Ty Cannaday officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

"Dad, you were my best friend and I'm gonna miss the times we've shared." - Derek

"Daddy, I will never forget the way your face would light up when I came to visit and you always said "Hey sweetie, I love you. I'll always be your little girl." - Ashley

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Ty Cannaday officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Price, Dennis L.

Dennis L. Price, a professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering at Virginia Tech, died Jan. 8.

Born in Alberta, Canada, on Oct. 24, 1930, Price was known for his expertise in safety and human factors engineering. He founded and directed the Safety Projects Laboratory at Virginia Tech and developed the occupational safety and health curriculum that is still being taught today.

After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1948, Price went on to earn his bachelor's degree in religion from Bob Jones University; a bachelor's and master's degree in divinity from California Baptist Seminary; a master's degree in psychology from California State University at Long Beach; and his Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University.

During the earliest stages of his career, Price worked as a research associate for Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, and as a technical staff member of the autonetics division for Rockwell International in Anaheim, California.

Hired as an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's industrial systems engineering department in 1974, he advanced to become a full professor, director of the Safety Projects Laboratory, and coordinator of the Human Factors Engineering area before being granted the title of professor emeritus in 1996.



He was an active member of several leading professional societies, including the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, the American Society of Safety Professionals, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the International System Safety Society. He was also a member of the industrial engineering honor society Alpha Pi Mu.

Michel Sicardi to donate earnings from his exhibit to New River Conservancy



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANEAN WILLIAMS, CURATOR, BLACKSBURG MUSEUM & CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Artist Michel Sicardi has announced he will donate the proceeds from the sale of his sculptures at his exhibit "Finding Paradise in the Woods" to the New River Conservancy.

Artist Michel Sicardi will donate the proceeds from the sale of his sculptures in the exhibit "Michel Sicardi: Finding Paradise in the Woods," through March 11, 2023, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg, to the New River Conservancy.

Admission to the exhibit is free; the hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Concerned about the rapid development in the New River watershed, the conservancy was formed to permanently protect the land along the New River, working with interested landowners who wish to voluntarily protect their land. Through their Accredited Land Trust Program, NRC has helped to protect nearly 10,000 acres of land and over 60 miles of river though land conservation, permanent sustainable management plans, and river and stream restoration.

"We conduct river cleanups along sections of the New River throughout the year," said Briana Bittner of the NRC.

"Since 2001, we have pulled roughly the size of a blue whale (500,000 pounds) of trash and 13,000 tires from the New River," Bittner said. "We expect those numbers to increase as we clean more of the river. We are so thankful for the support of Mr. Sicardi, and Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation for hosting his exhibit."

Sicardi, who will be returning to France soon, has said he was not as conscious about the environment in his native country. It wasn't until he lived in the United States that he became preoccupied by the environmental damage caused by plastics, and Americans' propensity for using plastic bags.

Sicardi has said he is grateful for the opportunity to donate to the New River Conservancy's mission to protect land and water in this area. "I wish that more people are aware that their actions have an effect on nature and that we should do our best to lessen our impact," Sicardi said.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg's Ayden Conley commits to Marshall

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Ayden Conley, the gentle giant of the Christiansburg High School football team, has announced plans to continue his playing career at Marshall University.

The decision came after several visits to the West Virginia school and offers from six other schools.

Ayden told family and friends he was headed to Marshall during senior night activities of the school's basketball game. Conley also recently returned from this year's Blue-Gray All-American Bowl, which was played at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Raymond James Stadium.

Conley was also named the 2021 all-county/all-city lineman of the year. He suffered a torn ACL late in the season and missed most of the team's 2021 playoff run but came back to play the entire 2023 playoff run.

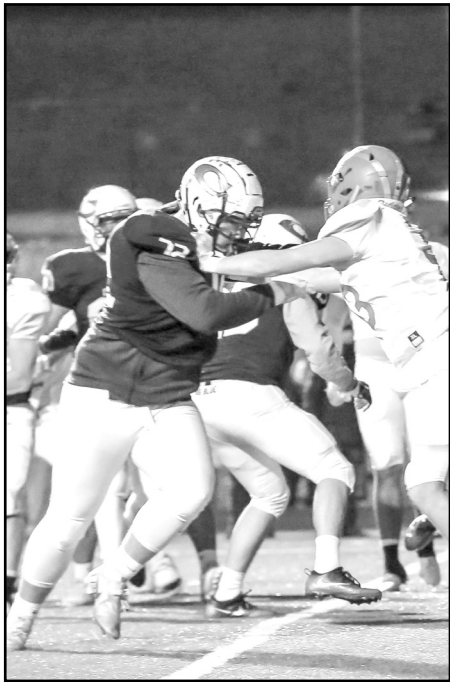
He chose Marshall because, as he said, it felt right after a couple of visits to the campus. "I felt the facilities, team and university is the right fit."

Conley was all-state this past season on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball..

At 6-4, 305, Conley enters a Marshall program that finished 9-4 this past season including a 28-14 win over UConn in the Myrtle Beach Bowl.

In 2021, University of Alabama associate head coach Charles Huff was named the Thundering Herd's next head football coach.

Huff joined Alabama in 2019 after one season (2018) as the assistant head coach, run-game coordinator, and running backs coach at Mississippi State University. He boasts 17 years of coaching experience at both the NFL and college levels with stops at Penn State University (2014-17), Western



FILE PHOTO
Ayden Conley (Left, number 72) helped lead Christiansburg High School to a state semi-final playoff this past season.

Michigan University (2013), the NFL's Buffalo Bills (2012), Vanderbilt University (2011), Hampton University (2010), the University of Maryland (2009) and Tennessee State University (2006-08).

Marshall University is a public research university in Huntington, WVa with an enrollment of 11,926 students.

Marshall is home to 15 NCAA Division I teams that compete within the Sun Belt Conference. This fall, Marshall will host Virginia Tech for a September contest.

Conley still has not decided on a field of study but is leaning toward mathematics as he is an outstanding member of the 2023 senior class.

What has happened to Christiansburg wrestling?

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Typically, this time of year, Christiansburg High School's wrestling team is hosting the Class 3 region D tournament, and in the past, that has included the team bringing home another trophy. But over the past three years, the end-result has become tougher and tougher.

Christiansburg had won 18 straight titles before they were dethroned in 2019 by New Kent, which was led by a former Christiansburg assistant coach.

Injuries and the lack of depth have the Blue Demons forfeiting 5 to 6 weight classes at almost every meet.

Cody Hughes, who is in his second year at the helm of the program, said this week Christiansburg wrestling is in a rebuilding

phase.

"We actually have 10 wrestlers, but two got injuries at the start of the season," Hughes said. "I think there's a combination of possible reasons that the numbers are why they are. What's important is it's getting turned around."

Over the years, this has been one of the most consistent programs in the state of Virginia and maybe the entire Southeast. The Blue Demons have produced three NCAA All Americans, five four-time state champs, six three-time state champs, 50 state champs, and 86 state place winners.

The 18 team championships makes Christiansburg one of the top programs in both the state of Virginia and the

Eastern United States.

In most cases, the current Christiansburg wrestlers were not even born when their school won the first state championship of the consecutive run.

While Hughes knows this year is not what local wrestling fans have become accustomed to, he remains optimistic for the future.

"The future of the program is to build a system for young athletes to become both better wrestlers and better people," Hughes said. "We want them not only to gain confidence on the mat but to learn important attributes that will help them succeed in life."

Hughes says he feels the school has the correct pieces to get the program moving back into the right direction toward what it once was.

Tech football's schedule solidified

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.

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 bout.

The Hokies will have three games in Lane Stadium in the month of 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.

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 the month of 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).

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

- VT Sports

OUTDOOR REPORT

DWR to launch partnership with NC Wildlife Commission to collect musky from New River

Early this month, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) fisheries biologists will be working with staff from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to collect adult musky from the lower New River.

This is a continuing partnership in which DWR provides a small number of adult musky to NCWRC. These fish are then taken back to NCWRC hatcheries and used to produce fingerling

musky for stocking in North Carolina. In return, DWR receives a large number of musky fingerlings for stocking throughout the commonwealth.

For the last several years, all musky that have been stocked in Virginia have come through this cooperative effort. Last spring, DWR provided NCWRC with five adult musky: two females and three males. For that investment, DWR received nearly 27,000 fingerlings that were

stocked in waters across Virginia. The adult fish taken to North Carolina are not returned to Virginia waters due to disease transfer concerns. However, DWR staff make sure to rotate collection locations to keep from impacting the population in any one area of the river.

Submitted by Paige Pearson, Public Information Officer, Virginia DWR

Smith, Nichols reunite old connection

Radford assistant coach Shane Nichols was part of two NCAA Tournament teams at Murray State. Before joining the Radford staff, he helped build the Racers into one of the top mid-major programs in America.

So as Radford was trying to build their roster for the future, it was only fitting that Nichols reunite with his former guard DaQuan Smith.

Smith has been one of the most reliable players for the Highlanders this season, leading the team in scoring at 13.7 points per game. He came to the New River City after four years at Murray State, where he played under the tutelage of Nichols, then an assistant for the Racers and now working under his brother Darris, the Highlanders' head coach.

"I always thought [Smith] was a good defensive player, a high-energy guy," Nichols said. "He was about the right things on and off the court. I just figured he would be a great asset to bring and build with."

Over the offseason, Darris Nichols emphasized that he wanted to recruit players from winning programs in the transfer portal.

Well, Smith did a whole lot of winning at Murray State. In four years, the Racers won three Ohio Valley Conference regular season championships and two tournament championships. Last year, Murray became the sixth OVC team ever to go undefeated in conference play.

"I know I can kinda help my teammates out because I've been in the NCAA Tournament, I've been undefeated in conference before," Smith added. "I just know how it goes. I know the way around everything in college basketball."

There were, however, setbacks along the way. As a freshman, Smith broke his ankle and was limited to just three games. "It slowed me down a lot," Smith said of the injury. "Coming into

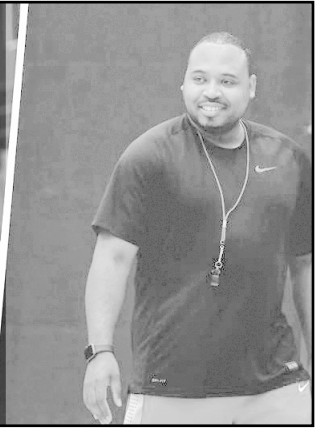


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU BASKETBALL

college, I was expected to play. To break my ankle, that was like my first real injury. I had never broken a bone before."

"The main thing with me was mentally — I was kinda up-and-down, like a rollercoaster."

While Smith started almost every game his sophomore year, he was relegated to a bench role the next two seasons. He wasn't getting the opportunities he wanted — as a senior, he averaged less than 13 minutes per game — so he wanted to look elsewhere. In March of 2022, Smith entered the transfer portal.

Soon after, Shane Nichols came calling.

Nichols had just finished up his first season as an assistant on Radford's staff, having teamed up with Darris, who accepted the head coaching job in April of 2021. It was good timing: Shane had won three straight conference titles at Murray and he was looking for a new challenge. The opportunity to coach with his brother was one he did not pass up.

"I thought it would be cool to coach with your brother in your hometown with your family still around," Nichols said. "Being at different places throughout your career, you're always looking for new challenges and different things that can propel your career. I just thought it was time."

Smith, meanwhile, had a far more circuitous route to Radford. He grew up in Holly Springs, Mississippi, a small town of about 6,500 near the Tennessee border. In high school, he had a breakout summer on the Adidas circuit, scoring 48 points in a game once. That was when several Division I coaches — including Nichols — started

to contact him.

"When I first reached out to him, he never answered the phone," Nichols said laughing. "I circled back later on in the fall. We got him up on a visit [to Murray State], and he and his mom, they loved it."

The pair kept a tight relationship, and eventually Smith committed, signing early in the fall of 2017. In doing so, he joined a Murray State program that under head coach Matt McMahon had established itself as a perennial powerhouse in the OVC. Just a year later, the Memphis Grizzlies would select Racers' guard Ja Morant as the second overall pick in the 2019 NBA Draft.

Unfortunately, the combination of injuries and playing behind more experienced players made it harder for Smith to contribute to that winning culture. That doesn't mean his decision to transfer was easy — he had grown to love Murray, and Radford was a 10-hour drive from his hometown. But the bond he had built with Nichols was enough to sell him on a new beginning.

"Coach Shane had been recruiting me since high school so I knew the type of bond we had," Smith said. "He always took care of me. I knew coming here would be a great decision."

Indeed it has. This season, Smith has put up career numbers and is one of three Highlanders this year to average double-figures. He is also shooting nearly 40% from three, up from 32% in his time at Murray, an improvement that he attributes to better shot selection.

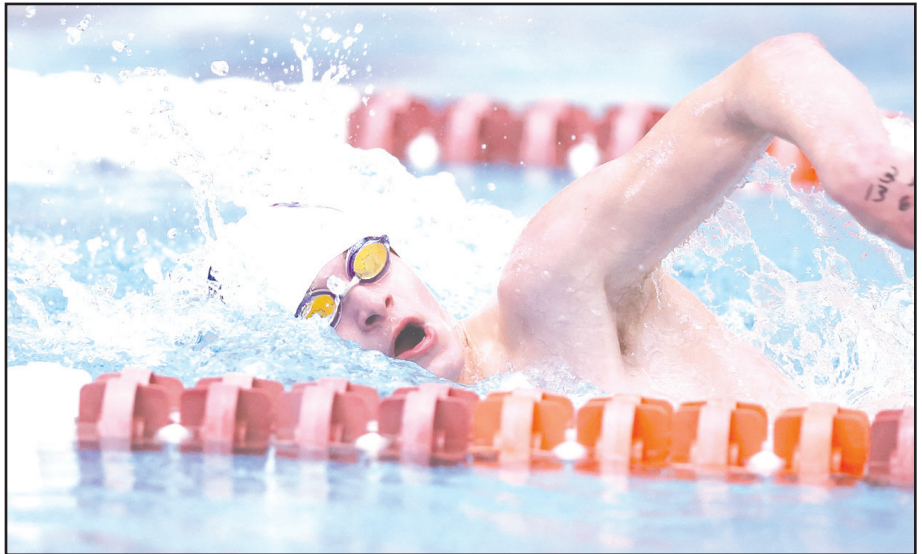
See Reunite, page 8

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

CHS girls finish third, boys come in fifth in Region 3D swimming



Christiansburg's Kaitlyn Brown swims in the opening butterfly leg of the 200-yard IM at Tuesday's Region 3D meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.



Christiansburg's Jacob Manieri won the Region 3D 200-yard freestyle title during Tuesday night's meet hosted by the Blue Demons.



Christiansburg's Grayson Rawlings races to the finish in the 50-yard freestyle at the Region 3D championship meet. Rawlings placed seventh overall with a time of 25.28.



Christiansburg's Kathryn Durbin swims in the Region 3D 100-yard butterfly championship. She placed fourth with a time of 1:07.66.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Christiansburg High School hosted this week's Class 3 Region D swimming and diving championships at the aquatic center, and the Blue Demon boys swam to a fifth-place finish while the girls came

in third. Cave Spring took the girls' title with 148 points. Hidden Valley finished second with 125, ahead of Christiansburg's 83 points and Lord Botetourt's 79. William Byrd was the boys' champions with 104 points with Carroll County second at 92 and Cave Spring third at 74.

Hidden Valley was fourth with 71 points and Christiansburg tallied 6 points. Individually on the boys' side of the pool, senior Jacob Manieri brought home a regional title in the 200-yard freestyle. Teammates Luke Rawlings claimed a regional title in the 1-meter diving. Teaghan Wilson won first place for

the Christiansburg girls' team in 1-meter diving while Anna Sanford was the titlist in the 500-yard freestyle. Christiansburg freshman Christina Lacy was second for the girls in the 100-yard freestyle, and fellow freshman Viktoria Zeff swam home in second place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Reunite

from page 7

"It's more confidence," Smith said. "I'm taking great shots and as a result I'm shooting a higher percentage. Just a lot of reps in the gym. Nichols noted the same thing: confidence. It's a quality that Smith exudes. "He played at Murray but he had limited opportunities," Nichols noted. "So to play a little bit more free and bring some leadership, being on teams that won three straight championships, you see and experience things that you can bring value to other guys on the team." Over time, the pair has grown even closer. The running joke at Murray State was that Smith was Nichols' son: they were always in

the office together, watching film or sitting around joking. "I've got that relationship where I can be hard on him, but also take a step back and laugh and joke and not take anything personal," Nichols said. "Just having that personal relationship over the years was a big factor in [him] coming here." "Coach Shane is like a father figure to me," Smith said. "He's always been in my corner, helping me get better, even when he left to go to Radford and I was still at Murray State. He's taught me so much." "That's my pops." —*RU Athletics*

BHS wrestlers win region titles



PHOTO COURTESY OF BHS

Blackburg High School returned from this week's Region 4D wrestling tournament with three champions. Pictured left to right are Braden Henderson (126 lbs.), Abdullah Mastrogiovanni (215 lbs.) and Tharun Sventanant (132 lbs.). In addition, Tyrique Nicholson placed third at 138 lbs. All four wrestlers advanced to the state tournament. Blackburg finished fifth in the team standings at the region meet.

Bella Lavel 2020

Shop now
for escape to warmer weather...
See the selection now at its packable best

BONOMO'S
WOMEN'S CLOTHIER SINCE 1973

860 University City Blvd, Blackburg
Mon - Sat 11:00am-4pm



Drake Gandee (center) scores two of Christiansburg's early points of the game. Blackburg took the 58-40 win.



Blackburg's Wade Bland (right) goes up for a shot against the defense of Christiansburg's Richard McCrea. Bland scored 12 points in the game.

Battle of Burgs: Round 2



Kailyn Brawley (right) scores for the Bruins under double coverage by the Blue Demons. The Lady Bruins also won their game in the Battle of the Burgs, 52-30.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Sathara Kane scores for the Blue Demons unencumbered by Blackburg.