

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Auburn High senior wins Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award

Auburn High School senior Tanner Long has been presented with the Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award.

Tanner was one of only eleven high school students across the commonwealth to receive the award, which recognizes Virginia high school students

who exhibit excellence of character, leadership, devotion to duty, and academic achievement.

Every year, one high school student from each of Virginia's eleven congressional districts is nominated by his or her principal for the award. The award's board then

conducts an interview process to select the award-winning student.

The board's mission is to recognize and nurture public service in pursuit of preservation of American democracy. The winning high school seniors each receive a \$20,000 cash award.



SUBMITTED BY JILL LONG

The son of David and Jill Long of Christiansburg, Auburn High School senior Tanner Long, second from left, is seeking an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Pictured left to right are Meg Turner, chairperson of the Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award Board; Tanner Long; Gretchen Byrd, granddaughter and permanent member of the board; and Thomas Byrd, grandson and permanent member of the board.

Veterinary college's spectrum of care improves 11-year-old Sophie's life after leg injury



PHOTO BY ANDREW MANN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Sophie walks on the underwater treadmill at the Virginia-Maryland Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

When Sophie, the Newfoundland/golden retriever mix, suddenly could not stand on her hind leg, owner Angela McCoy Williams of Giles County sought emergency services at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The veterinary staff found that Sophie tore her cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) in her rear right leg.

This was Sophie's second CCL tear. The CCL connects the bones in the knee joint and is similar to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in humans. We typically

think of ACL tears as sports injuries, but dogs usually tear their CCL because of degeneration.

In 2019, Sophie tore her left CCL, and over time, her body built up enough scar tissue to compensate for the loss of stability. But when she tore the right CCL, the old injury meant that her left leg simply wasn't strong enough to hold her up.

Surgery, the typical treatment, was not going to work for Sophie. It would require confinement as she recuperated, and crating simply was not an option. Besides, surgery would be extra stressful

given her advanced age and skin problems would increase her surgical and anesthetic risks.

"We talked to the owner about the spectrum of care we could offer Sophie. A CCL tear is not uncommon, but it can be a huge quality of life issue for older dogs, so it's nice to have different things we can offer, not just one type of pain medication," said Jenny Marin, clinical assistant professor of community practice at the teaching hospital.

Thanks to the teaching hospital's Rehabilitation Service, Sophie can recover

See **Veterinary**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

The HBO television series, "The Last of Us," a tale of survival in a zombie apocalypse, imagines a zombie plague caused by a fungal infection that exists in nature. The fungi are the cordyceps fungi, a group that target insects as their prey. Jordan Metzgar, pictured above, the curator of the Massey Herbarium at Virginia Tech, says the fungi pose no threat to humans and are actually used in traditional Chinese and Tibetan medicine to enhance humans' immune systems.

Fungi and zombies

Q: Can the fungus from "The Last of Us" really create zombies?

No. "The cordyceps fungi are a group of fungi that target insects as their prey. They are classified in the genus Ophiocordyceps with about 140 different species worldwide. These fungi are horrifically fascinating to us because

they survive by invading the bodies of insects and can take control over the insect's behavior."

Q: How can this fungus control an insect?

"If a spore from the fungus lands on a caterpillar, it can begin to grow thread-like mycelia that penetrate the caterpillar's body. The

caterpillar will reach a zombie-like state when the fungus has grown all the way into the caterpillar's head. The cordyceps infection can then change the caterpillar's behavior and force the insect to find a high, open spot like a branch tip. The fungus

See **Fungi**, page 4

Carilion Clinic closes drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites in Christiansburg, Roanoke



SUBMITTED BY CARILION CLINIC

Carilion Clinic has closed a pair of drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites.

Effective today, March 1, Carilion Clinic has closed its drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites on Barn road in Christiansburg and Postal Drive in Roanoke.

The decision was made because of

the improvement in collective immunity and the availability of alternate testing sites including home antigen tests.

Testing center staff will assume new roles at other practices, and COVID-

19 testing will remain available at primary care and VelocityCare sites in conjunction with an in-person or virtual visit. Patients can be seen by a provider and evaluated for appropriate testing and treatment.

Christiansburg PD seeking public assistance in locating missing man

On Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, the Christiansburg Police Department received a report of a missing, elderly man. 86-year-old Siegfried Holzer left his residence to go to a local store but never returned.

After realizing he had not checked in, his family activated a GPS locator on his vehicle and observed it to be traveling out of the

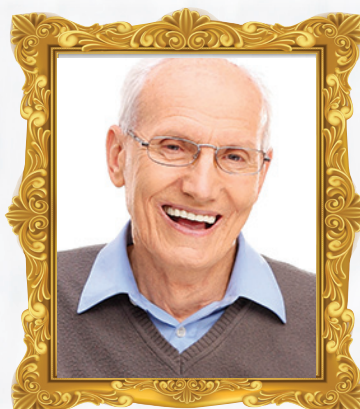
area. Law enforcement helped track the vehicle to a location in Hardy County, WV. The Hardy County Sheriff's Office found his vehicle around the 11000 block of State Road 55 in Baker, WV on Friday, Feb. 24 around 8 p.m.. Hardy County initiated a search, but Holzer has not yet been located.

Siegfried Holzer was

last seen wearing blue jeans, a ball cap, blue tennis shoes, and an orange, maroon, and white Virginia Tech jacket. He is 5'5" tall, and weighs 110 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. Anyone who has seen him or had any contact with him should contact the Christiansburg Police Department at (540) 382-4343.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1:

Blacksburg business license renewal forms due
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 plus 10% interest. Renewal forms were mailed in early January. Anyone who has yet to receive the form may email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.

Thursday, March 2:

Crab Creek Watershed Project kick-off meeting
Attendees can 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 their property, At the Loft at Great Road on Main (100 W Main St. Christiansburg); 6 to 7 p.m.

American Legion meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet on Thursday, March 2, at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, please call 540-250-2253 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, March 6:

Carilion Clinic free chronic disease screening
At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 to 3 p.m. A health professional will assess attendees' current health risk. Walk-ins can stop by during the allotted event time to receive free preventive health services including: blood pressure screening, diabetes risk assessment, and stroke risk assessment. No registration is required.

Tuesday, March 7:

I-Spy DIY
At the Christiansburg Library; 4 to 5 p.m. Participants can make their own I-Spy box scene filled with all the tiny things. Friends and family may then try to find all of the items that have been hidden. Ideal for ages 8-plus.

English Conversation for Adults

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

Thursday, March 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.

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>.

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will take part in this weekly quilting and sewing group. They should bring their supplies and will enjoy some lively conversation.

Talking about books: Raising Lazarus

At Meadowbrook Library; 11 a.m. to noon. Participants will discuss "Raising Lazarus" by Beth Macy. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Friday, March 10:

Luther Mmorial Lutheran Church hosts Mr. Jefferson's Bones Trombone Quintet

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, will host a concert by Mr. Jefferson's Bones, a professional trombone quintet at 4 p.m. The New River Valley community is invited to attend.

Monday, March 13:

Radford Community Garden signups

Radford Community Garden will begin signup for the 2023 season on March 13, 2023, in the City Administration Building. Previous gardeners will have priority for a plot. Plots cost \$20 for a 20 x 20 foot and \$10 for a 10 x 20 plot.

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in 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 at each meeting to voice their concerns. All regular meetings of the board of supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, March 14:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to this meeting. 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.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street).

The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

New Tuesday night zumba class

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation is now offering a new Tuesday night zumba class with Jui-Ling. Classes will begin March 14 and continue through April 25 from 6 to 7pm. Passes can be purchased at the Blacksburg Community Center and cost \$35 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Passes are good for 13 visits and are interchangeable with morning and evening classes (excluding Yoga Flow). For more information, call 540-443-1142.

Saturday, March 25:

Spring children's consignment sale

Blacksburg United Methodist Church will hold its spring children's consignment sale from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Whisner Building at the Church Street campus, accessed through the rear entrance at Lee and Penn Streets. Families will be able to get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments.

Ongoing:

Lifeguard training

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is hiring high school students aged 16 and above for the summer season. A lifeguard training course is mandatory and will be held March 17 - 19. If the students are hired, the training class is free. Enroll at www.cacpool.com.

Cap and Gown Drive

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. 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. To save cleaning costs, materials may be dry-cleaned, but this is not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Blacksburg 2023 Citizens Institute

The Town of Blacksburg is sponsoring a citizens institute on Monday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning on April 6 Participants will meet the town staff and learn more about how Blacksburg's government functions. 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.

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. The classes end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Bombas partners with Warm Hearth Foundation

BLACKSBURG – Bombas donates essential clothing items, including socks, underwear and t-shirts, to Giving Partners such as homeless shelters and community organizations that support people in need across all 50 states.

Their network of 3500-plus Giving Partners helps distribute millions of Bombas donation products each year, as part of the brand's One Purchased = One Donated business model. Since their founding in 2013 Bombas has donated more than 75 million items.

The Warm Hearth Foundation became a Giving Partner in 2022 and has since distributed 1000 pairs of socks to 145 Warm Hearth Village (WHV) residents.

The Warm Hearth Foundation is the charitable fundraising entity for Warm Hearth Village and operates a range of programs that helps seniors in need on its campus. Under the Micah's Program umbrella, a variety of goods is made available to residents in Trolinger and New River House Apartments, including fresh produce, meals, shelf-stable food, personal care supplies, emergency assistance, and more.

A network of businesses, individual donors, volunteers, and staff comes together to build partnerships, stock the pantry, and ensure that seniors on low, fixed-incomes have what they need. This partnership with Bombas is one of many examples where the network helps to enrich the lives of Warm Hearth's residents.



SUBMITTED BY SUSAN BIXLER, MARKETING COORDINATOR, WARM HEARTH VILLAGE
Judy Flickinger, Warm Hearth resident volunteer, packages Bombas for delivery.

Sharon King has lived in the apartment community for six and a half years.

"I was so surprised and happy to get the socks and chocolate," she said. "Living here is perfect for me and is the best decision I've made," she said.

Judy Flickinger is a resident of the village who volunteers in Micah's Pantry, a storefront on campus where donated items are made available and qualified residents shop for what they need at no cost.

"Volunteering gives a sense of purpose and is a great way to get out and meet people from all the different neighborhoods on campus," she said.

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

PETS OF THE WEEK



Twisty

Twisty is a friendly gal who's ready to head home. She is a younger dog who responds well to delicious treats and could stand to gain a few pounds to reach her ideal weight. Twisty also knows a few commands, including "sit." Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet pawsome Twisty.



Coach

Meet Coach. He's a sweet, shy boy who could use some coaching himself so he can live his best doggie life. He would likely enjoy a fenced yard at his new home, and he would benefit from training to boost his confidence.

How U all R?

Anyone involved in the Mt. Tabor community in the past 50 years. It could be the Ruritan Club, the childcare center, the church or the elementary school.

I miss you!

Many of these people are getting old. Some are getting sick and some have died. I would like to see you again. (not the dead ones)

CALL ME

This is the Most Excellent Old Wiseass of Bitterhill, also known as Curtis Ray Cox Sr. or Skeebo. I don't answer the phone if I don't recognize the number, and neither should you. Leave a message and I'll get back to you.

This could be FUN

The number is (816)853-6130,
email crc1872@yahoo.com.

OBITUARIES

McPherson, Hazel Trimble

Hazel Trimble McPherson, of Blacksburg, passed away on Feb. 23, 2023, at LewisGale Montgomery Hospital.

She was born March 8, 1935, to Edward Lee and Nannie Smith Trimble. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 50 years, Elmer C. McPherson; her mother-in-law and father-in-law; her daughter-in-law, Anna McPherson; and a granddaughter, Kristy M Shultz.

Left to cherish her memory are her brother, Ray Trimble of Florida; a son, Robert McPherson of Pulaski; a daughter and



son-in-law, Carolyn and Steve Smith of Blacksburg; and a granddaughter and her husband, Mary and Todd Belcher, five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She also

leaves behind four sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law.

She was a member of Slusher's Chapel Church of God and enjoyed helping make Easter eggs and serving the Ruritans their meals. She will be missed by her church friends Doris, Carol, Francis, and Jan, and lots of other friends and family.

The family honored their mother's wishes by having a graveside service on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg, with the Rev. Richard Gilbert officiating.

Jones, Dixie

Dixie Jones passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023.

She left one daughter, two sons, two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren,



and many friends. She was loved and will be missed by all. Special thanks go to the nurses from Good Samaritan who were very good to her.

Per her request, no services will be held.

Viers, Robert Corvin

Robert Corvin Viers, 73, of Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis Corvin and

Mary Nuckols Viers; and his sister, Marie V. Harris. Survivors include his sisters, Bonnie V. Singleton and Pamela Sue Viers; and many nieces, nephews, and other family

members and friends.

Per his request, a private family memorial service will be held. The Viers family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Stewart, Marcus Adam

Marcus Adam Stewart, 37, of Blacksburg, left his earthly body Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023. He was born May 15, 1985 in Radford.

Marcus was one to never meet a stranger and could make anyone laugh until they cried. He would do anything to make someone feel special and he had the biggest heart of gold. He loved his family and friends something fierce.

Marcus was preceded in death by his father, Jeffrey P. Stewart; his paternal grandfather, Donald E. Stewart; maternal grandparents, Fred and Annette Wohlford; and uncles Marcus E. Wohlford and Daniel W. Stewart.

Left to cherish his



memory are his mother and stepfather, Barbara and Wade Marshall; grandmother Mary Evelyn Albert; sister and brother-in-law Amy and William Stevens; brother and sister-in-law Jeff and Jennifer Stewart; uncles and aunts

Steve and Tommie Lee Stewart, Greg and Lois Stewart, and Guy and Connie Wohlford; nieces Layken Parks and Lauren Stewart; and cousins Austin Stewart, Shannon Wohlford and Neil Wohlford. He will also be missed by special friends Angela Draper, Diane Ross, Dylan Reichner, Karen Bernier, Linda Bland, Nick Etter, Sandie Sawyers and Travis Byrd.

The family will receive friends Sunday, March 5, 2023 at Tried Stone Christian Center, Blacksburg, from 12:30 - 1 p.m., with a Celebration of Life following, led by friend and pastor Eric Willoughby.

He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Ervine, Wanda Sue Sutherland

Wanda Sue Sutherland Ervine, 69, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023.

She was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church and retired secretary of Ruritan National.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Nellie Sutherland; her husband, Larry Kent Ervine; her brothers, Jerry Sutherland and Roger Sutherland; and her sisters, Liz Noel and Alice Vencill.

Survivors include her stepsons, Scott Ervine (Holly) of Georgia, and Mike Ervine;



grandchildren Tyler (Amanda) Ervine, Travis Ervine, and Logan Ervine; great-granddaughter Emma Ervine; brothers Howard Sutherland and

Dr. Rev. Bob Sutherland; sisters Bonnie Stevenson and Linda Waddell; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Dr. Rev. Bob Sutherland officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

POLICE REPORT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL ARREST LOG

02/11/2023 - 02/17/2023

SOWERS, RICHARD COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language

DRAPER, JOHN COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language

THOMAS, TABATHA COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Child abuse and neglect (3 counts); narcotics possession

HOWELL, CARL II COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Vandalism, intentional damage to property or monument less than \$1,000; larceny \$200 or more not from person; damage to attended property less than \$1,000 driver fails to report.

SHEPPARD, PRESTON COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language

GRAZA, LUIS COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Driving while intoxicated (first offense)

SHIRKEY, BRYAN COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; Drunk In Public; Profane Language; Simple Assault (2 counts)

BECKNER, TC COMMIT DATE 02/11/2023 OFFENSE

Narcotics Possession (2 counts) BARBER, AUSTYN COMMIT DATE 02/12/2023 OFFENSE Driving While Intoxicated (first offense)

WADE, ROY JR COMMIT DATE 02/12/2023 OFFENSE Driving While Intoxicated (first offense)

BANGAY, BLAKE COMMIT DATE 02/12/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; Drunk In Public; Profane Language

BAIN, DONNA C COMMIT DATE 02/12/2023 OFFENSE Assault Simple Assault - Against Family Member

DUPLECHAIN, SAGE COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE DWI (first conviction); Influence Of Drugs

SLAYDON, SARAH COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Driving while intoxicated (first offense)

WILLIS, DANIEL COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Simple assault on law enforcement, fire rescue personnel (3 counts) obscenity; drunk in public; profane language

BAYNE, JOSEPH COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Narcotics Possession

TAYLOR, DEREK COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Narcotics sale For profit; conspiracy; narcotics sale for profit Conspiracy - Narcotics

Sale For Profit WELLS, RENEE COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Violation of conditions of pretrial release; failure to appear to felony/misdemeanor summons; Narcotics possession (2 counts)

ADKINS, KAITLIN COMMIT DATE 02/13/2023 OFFENSE Trespass After Being Forbidden To Do So

SNIDER, CASSIDY COMMIT DATE 02/14/2023 OFFENSE Obtaining money by fraud/false pretenses less than \$200

RELIFORD, TONYIA COMMIT DATE 02/14/2023 OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language

SAJID, JUNAID COMMIT DATE 02/14/2023 OFFENSE DWI (first conviction); Influence Of Drugs

MANNON, ROBERT COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE DWI (first conviction) Influence Of Drugs

AKERS, JESSIE COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Strangle causing wound/Injury; Simple assault against family member

PIERCE, LINDSEY COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Driving While Intoxicated (first offense)

PAULEY, ZACHARY COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023

OFFENSE Traffic: Driving with revoked operator's license (first offense); Traffic - Reckless driving Endangering life Or limb

PRICE, BRANDON COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Felony probation violation (8 counts)

SHELOR, RYAN COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Simple assault against family member

WEBB, WILLIAM COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Burglary of dwelling house with intent to commit larceny A&B; Vandalism, intentional damage to property or monument less than \$1,000

BAKER, ANTHONY, JR. COMMIT DATE 02/15/2023 OFFENSE Failure To Appear for felony/misdemeanor summons

WILLIAMS, JAMES COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Failure to appear for felony/misdemeanor summons

COLEMAN, ZACHARY COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Weapons possession by convicted felon other than firearm (non-violent) (three counts)

AKERS, PATRICIA COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Fail To Appear In Court For Misdemeanor Offense; falsely identifying one's self; narcotics

possession (2 counts) REEL, JOHN COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Arrests (For Use By State Police) Felony Arrest Without Warrant

KIM, EUNHAN COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Family Offense Cruelty And Injuries To Children (2 counts)

MOON, HYERAN COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Family Offense Cruelty And Injuries To Children (2 counts)

MUN, BYUNGKI COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Family Offense Cruelty And Injuries To Children (2 counts)

SPRADLING, JEREMIAH COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Violation of conditions of pretrial release (2 coins) Obtaining narcotics by forgery/fraud

REDD, TORRIEN COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Fail To Appear In Court For Misdemeanor Offense; felony probation violation (2 counts)

HOUSTON, KEVON COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Violation of felony suspended sentence

COX, ANGEL COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Felony probation violation; Prisoner's possession with intent to sell, secrete unlawful chemical compound

LITCHFORD, CHRISTINA COMMIT DATE 02/16/2023 OFFENSE Traffic: Driving with revoked operator's license (first offense)

PRUITT, ANTHONY COMMIT DATE 02/17/2023 OFFENSE Felony probation violation

BAILEY, JAMES COMMIT DATE 02/17/2023 OFFENSE Narcotics Possession (two counts)

MOYER, AMANDA COMMIT DATE 02/17/2023 OFFENSE Narcotics Possession with intent to sell and distribute; felony probation violation (2 counts) misdemeanor probation violation (3 counts)

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Fungi from page 1

can then release spores from the caterpillar's dead body to find a new generation of victims."

Q: Are there any fungi that can be harmful to humans?

"There are other fungal diseases that afflict humans today. These range from mild ailments like athlete's foot to the potentially fatal drug-resistant yeast *Candida auris*."

Q: Are fungal diseases the only problem to worry about?

Veterinary from page 1

from her torn CCL without surgical intervention. "Surgery is more expensive than rehab, and surgery doesn't mean it won't happen again. I would rather build up her strength and her muscle and give her what time she has left to be comfortable," said Williams.

Sophie comes to the Rehabilitation Service twice a week for laser therapy and underwater treadmill sessions with certified canine rehabilitation practitioner Flori Bliss.

"Another danger posed by fungi is the misidentification of poisonous species. We have lots of great edible species like morels, chanterelles, chicken of the woods, and many others. But we also have some species that can be lethal! *Amanita bisporigera* is a species of destroying angel mushroom found in the region around Virginia Tech. As its name suggests, you don't want to mess with it! The destroying angel and some other native fungi can sicken or even kill people, so it is very important to be able to identify any wild

mushrooms correctly before eating them."

Q: This sounds like a lot to worry about. Are fungi really all that bad?

"Overall, fungi are a huge help to humanity. We eat morel mushrooms, we use fungal-produced medicines like penicillin, and we bake bread leavened by baker's yeast. Fungi in the environment also help nourish plants world-wide through underground connections and help break down dead organic matter and recycle it into soil."

"We're taking the multimodal approach we typically take for rehab patients. Before her right leg injury, she wasn't on any kind of pain management, so that was the first thing to do. She's on joint supplements, anti-inflammatories, and now she's on a new diet. We're coming at it from a lot of different angles," said Bliss.

Sophie loves water, so the underwater treadmill is her favorite rehabilitation activity.

Sophie's story underscores the importance of

the spectrum of care, the concept that the "gold standard" doesn't suit every case. An animal and a client's circumstances may require creative problem solving. Veterinarians need flexibility to use a variety of options to make the best treatment for pets and their owners alike.

For Sophie, the spectrum of care means she can undergo rehabilitation instead of surgery.

"It's harder because she has had two tears, but I'm confident she will improve," said Marin.

Letter to Editor: Return to Reason

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."
- Colossians 2: 8

When I first read nurse John Phillips' letter to the editor on February 15, 2023, invoking God's "creation of gender diversity," it seemed so bizarre to me that I doubted if it should even be dignified with a response. But it is an example of an extremely confused perspective on the straightforward subject of gender, and is part of the problem today.

Thus, my response.

The genders of male and female have been easily

understood for millennia. Why the confusion now? It seems it is the ultimate form of rebellion to deny our gender. Phillips uses the rare mutation of hermaphroditism as a premise to make his case, which is using the exception to make the rule. When ever is disease or mutation promoted as the norm?

True hermaphroditism is one of the rarest causes of sexual ambiguity and occurs when there is damage and loss of the long arm of the Y sex chromosome. The baby is born with male and female gonadal tissue, and generally raised as female. It is a disease; not a choice.

Phillips invokes "God" repeatedly but not the God of the Bible, who made us male and female (Gen.1:27). As pastor Kevin DeYoung has noted, "Far from being a mere cultural construct, God depicts the existence of a man and a woman as essential to His creational plan. The two are neither identical nor interchangeable.... The anomaly of intersex individuals does not undermine the creational design, but gives another example of creational "groaning" and the realities of a fallen world."

The "God" that Phillips refers to is that of New Age mysticism, betrayed by his reference to Barbara Heider-Rauter, a practitioner and purported expert in aura-soma,

a form of divination, in the same category as tarot card reading.

The tactic of using the exception to make the rule is used when moral law, originally designed for our flourishing and freedom, is recast as a means of our oppression. The irony is that if we were to follow Phillips's philosophy to its logical conclusion and are "liberated" by "gender diversity," then we would find that we actually transgress the law of God, in the name of "social justice, equity and equality." The hypocrisy should be clearly evident.

This response is submitted in the hope of warning away those who may be confused by the self-righteous tenor of Phillips's letter and his multiple references to "God" on gender diversity. It is important to understand that his chosen worldview prevents him from seeing otherwise, even if it means his disengaging from rational thought.

-From C.A. Harris, MD, FACS

Chuck Harris is a retired general surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery at Carilion Virginia Tech School of Medicine. He is a past President of the Virginia Surgical Society and a past President of the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. He is a former Chief of Staff and attending general surgeon at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

WalletHub: Virginia has highest vehicle taxes in the United States

Depending on where you live, property taxes can be a small inconvenience or a major burden. According to the financial website WalletHub, the average American household spends \$2,690 on property taxes for their homes each year, and residents of the 26 states with vehicle property taxes shell out another \$444.

Considering these figures and the massive amount of debt in America, it should come as no surprise that more than \$14 billion in property taxes go unpaid each year, according to the National Tax Lien Association.

And though property taxes might appear to be a non-issue for the 35% of renter households, that couldn't be further from the truth. As WalletHub declares, everyone pays property taxes, whether directly or indirectly, as they impact the rent we pay as well as the finances of state and local governments.

But which states have the largest property tax load, and what should residents keep in mind when it comes to meeting and minimizing their tax obligations? In search of

answers, WalletHub analyzed the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of real-estate and vehicle property taxes.

According to WalletHub's analysis, the ten places with the lowest property taxes are 1) Hawaii 2) Alabama 3) Colorado 4) Nevada 5) Louisiana 5) South Carolina 7) District of Columbia 8) Delaware 8) Utah 10) West Virginia

As WalletHub pointed out, only 25 states and the District of Columbia have vehicle property taxes. Among the states that do tax vehicles, the website ranked them from lowest taxes to highest taxes.

The survey revealed that Virginia has the highest vehicle property taxes in the country.

Among the states with vehicle taxes, the following states were ranked by WalletHub as the places with the highest vehicle taxes:

41. New Hampshire 41. Wyoming 43. Nevada 44. Kansas 45. Connecticut 46. Massachusetts 47. Maine 48. South Carolina 49. Missouri 50. Mississippi 51. Virginia

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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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CLUES ACROSS

- Bay Area Transit Auth. (abbr.)
- Pull apart by force
- Ancient Egyptian King
- Missing soldiers
- Capital of Japan
- Diamond month (abbr.)
- Spheres
- Surpassing good
- British thermal unit
- Philippine island & seaport
- Legally argued
- Belonging to singer Fitzgerald
- Bowler hats
- Has a strong odor
- Doyens
- London Gallery
- Rural delivery
- Rods
- Stonhenge plain
- Withdraw from membership
- Execute or perform
- Central or Yellowstone
- Municipality in Norway
- Bay of NW Rep. of Ireland
- Skin designs
- Son of Jephunneh
- Baseball's Ruth
- Clare Booth __, Am. writer
- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Filled with fear or apprehension
- 6th Jewish month
- Wide metal vessel used in cooking
- Make by pouring into a cast
- Colombian city
- Heat unit
- Carpenter, red and army
- Adam and Eve's garden
- Big man on campus
- Made public by radio or television
- Labelled
- Inform positively
- Drinks habitually
- Supplemented with difficulty
- SW Scottish river & port
- American poet 1874-1963
- Pads
- Ingestion or intake
- Tie up a bird before cooking
- Bulrushes of the genus Scirpus
- Turned rod on a spinning wheel
- Having or covered with leaves
- The 44th U.S. President
- Midway between S and SE
- Tuberculosis (abbr.)
- Inspected accounting procedures
- A twilled woolen fabric
- Potato state
- The work of a sailor
- Involving 2 dimensions
- Fanatical or overzealous
- Consolation
- Wild sheep of northern Africa
- Erect leafless flower-bearing stalk
- Afrikaans
- Weighing device
- Very dry champagne
- Emerald Isle
- A resident of Benin

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 304 Goad Road, Fincastle, VA

Tax Map No. 62-155
In execution of a Deed of Trust dated August 31, 2011, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, as Instrument No. 110003218, the Substitute Trustee will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on the date and time referenced below. All of that certain tract or parcel of land containing 1.375 acres, more or less, as shown on that certain plat of survey made by Charles R. McMurry, CLS, dated March 12, 1996, recorded in the Clerk's Office for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 17, at Page 27. Date of Sale: March 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Location: outside the Botetourt County Circuit Court, Courthouse, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. Terms: CASH; a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower. Settlement within thirty (30) days of date of sale. Time is of the essence. OPTIONS: 1. All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Substitute Trustee nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third party purchaser 2. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Substitute Trustee be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect. Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Substitute Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property. John K. Prillaman, Esq. Substitute Trustee For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. OPN LAW 3140 Chaparral Drive Roanoke, Virginia 24018 (540) 725-8194

Legals - Botetourt County

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Legals - City of Radford

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia

VA Code §§ 8.01-316, -317 Case No. CL23-6883 City of Radford Circuit Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Robert A. Jones, Jr. v. Victor Carter, et al. The object of this suit is to: Quiet the title to 530 W. Rock Road, Radford, VA 24141. It is ORDERED that heirs of Charles Jones, deceased appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 15, 2023. JANUARY 27, 2023 REBECCA PRICE Deputy Clerk

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem

Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:
1. Consider the request of Michael O. Garst and Alan L. Garst, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 907 Florida Street (Tax Map # 185-5-9) from HBD Highway Business District to RSF Residential Single Family.
2. Consider the request of Daniel N Suggs Excavating & Grading, Inc., property owner, and AM Transportation of Roanoke, LLC, contract purchaser, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a truck parking facility on the property located at 2730 West Main Street, (Tax Map # 174-5-1).
Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY:
James E. Taliaferro, II
Executive Secretary

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Virginia gas prices continue to fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 8.3 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.12 per gallon as of Monday, Feb. 27, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 29.8 cents per gallon lower than they were a month ago and 30.8 cents per gallon lower than they were a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.69 per gallon Monday while the most expensive gas price was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 4.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.33 per gallon Monday. The national average is down 17.6 cents per gallon

from a month ago and 26.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"The national average has resumed its decline after a pause last week as oil and wholesale gasoline prices fell on worrisome inflation figures showing the Fed likely to ramp up rates to slow inflation," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Some nine out of 10 states saw declines over the last week, so the drops are showing up for most across the country, with the exception of the West Coast as the transition to summer blends continues, and in the Great Lakes, where prices cycled last week

but have now resumed declining," according to De Haan. "For the weeks ahead, tradition tells us to expect prices to move up eventually, but that could at least be partially offset by inflationary data that continue to be hotter than expected, leading to anxiety that the Fed will boost interest rates and cooling the economy and oil demand considerably."

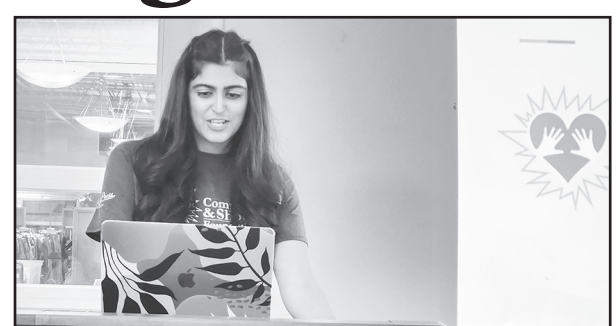
GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

YMCA at VT receives life-saving device

Friday, Feb. 24, at 11:30 a.m., the YMCA at Virginia Tech was presented with an AED by the Congress and Shock Foundation that was installed at the Y's Thrift Shop. The presentation took place in the Y Center at 1,000 North Main St. in Blacksburg.

An AED or automated external defibrillator is a medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to victims of ventricular fibrillation to restore the heart rhythm to normal. Ventricular fibrillation is the uncoordinated heart rhythm most often responsible for sudden cardiac arrest, which can happen to anyone at any time during a person's life.

Approximately 350,000 people are affected outside a controlled, hospital setting each year. The Compress



COURTESY OF YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH
YMCA Student Programs President Shifa Banani coordinated and led an AED training sessions attended by 57 Y staff and community members.

and Shock Foundation's mission is to bring free and equitable access of CPR and AED education to the local community. The foundation was founded with the vision of establishing an Annual CPR and AED Education Day.

The foundation partnered with the YMCA at Virginia Tech to host the sixth annual CPR and AED Education

Day in October 2022 to provide free chest-compression-only CPR and AED education to the Blacksburg and Christiansburg communities using the Y Center facility.

YMCA Student Programs President Shifa Banani coordinated and led the training sessions, which were attended by 57 Y staff and community members between 16-87 years old.

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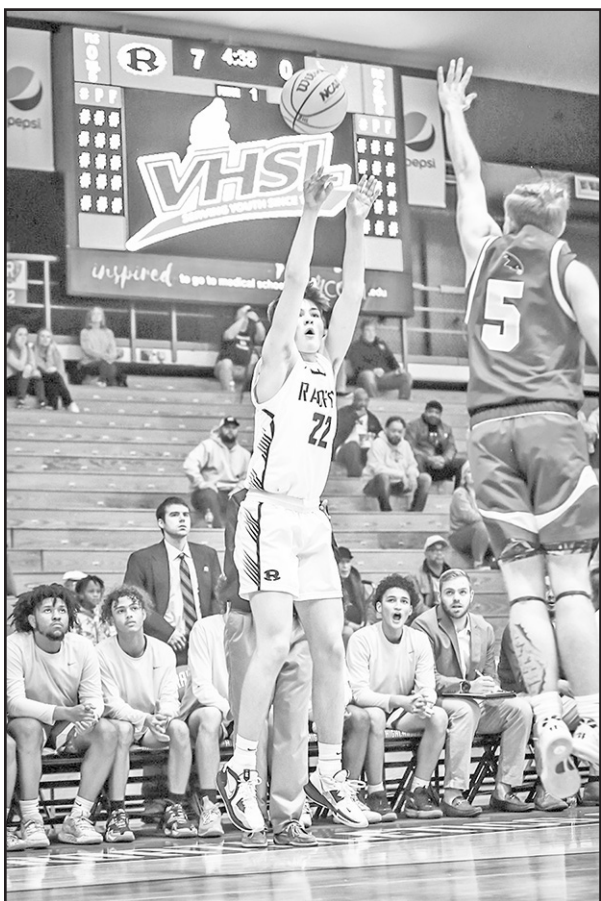
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Auburn boys win region title; Radford to play Floyd Monday for region title



Luke Woodard fires a 3-pointer early in the first quarter against Gretna. High school basketball took center stage this past weekend with Radford punching its ticket to region championships, while the Auburn boys' team claimed a back-to-back Region C title.



Gavin Cormany scores in the paint in Saturday's game. The Radford boys hammered Gretna on Saturday night and were scheduled to play Floyd for the regional crown on Monday.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER



Auburn wins region C - For the second straight year, Auburn is the boys' regional basketball champ. The Eagles, who are now 22-8, will face Honaker in this coming weekend's state quarters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AHS

Frank Parker named to Southern States Wrestling's Hall of Fame

Marty Gordon
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After a professional wrestling career that spanned 20 years, this past week, Christiansburg's Frank Parker was named to the Southern Wrestling Association's Hall of Fame.

Parker became a fan of professional wrestling growing up in Southwest Virginia. He watched it on television and attended several live events at the Roanoke Civic Center. Once he was at an event in Roanoke where his favorite wrestlers, the Road Warriors, were performing. Parker was only seven years old and had bought a color photo of Hawk, a member of the Road Warriors.

He was determined to gain his autograph and worked his way through the crowd. Most of the grownups ignored him as he moved closer and closer to his hero.

"All of sudden, I ran into a big solid black wall, stopping in my tracks. I fell to the ground and looked up to see Hawk asking me if I was okay," Parker said.

He had run head-on into the professional wrestler. He didn't gain Hawk's autograph, but he remembers the incident to this day.

Parker was a football player at Christiansburg High School until an injury knocked him off the rail of his dream of playing college football.

"I really wanted to play college football, but it didn't work out," he said.

Parker was working at a Christiansburg car wash when professional wrestler Jimmy Valiant stopped by. The chance meeting was something that changed his life and led him down the new path of professional wrestling.

Valiant was another wrestler whom Parker had watched from afar and never thought he would meet.

Parker learned that Valiant, who had just retired from the Mid-Atlantic Wrestling, was looking for a home in the New River Valley to open a wrestling camp to train youngsters.

Parker would be Valiant's first student at that camp, which is still located in Alleghany Springs, outside of Elliston.

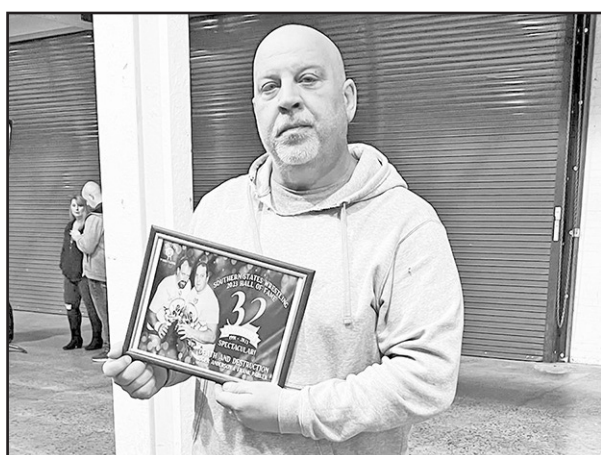
"I was skeptical at the age of 22, but Jimmy (Valiant) took me under his wing and taught me how to perform," he said.

The Christiansburg native became a sponge, absorbing as much knowledge as he could. From then on, Parker went on the road with Valiant and wrestled independent matches five to six times a week.

His first match was in Frankfort, Kentucky, in 1993. After five years, he broke away from Valiant to start his own independent travels.

"I was living the dream," he said.

In 1997, Parker formed a tag team with Roger Anderson, who was also from Christiansburg. The two wrestled matches under masks and black outfits and were known as



Frank Parker of Christiansburg has been a professional wrestler for over 20 years, and this past week he was honored as a new member of the Southern States Wrestling Hall of Fame.

"Death and Destruction."

They were wrestling on the west coast one day when they met World Wrestling Federation promoter Jim Cornette. Cornette learned the wrestlers were from the Roanoke area where WWF (now WWE) was starting to hold live events.

The promoter invited them to attend and wrestle as a tag team against unknown individuals. The night of the event Parker and Anderson still didn't know whom they would face until Cornette told them it would be the Road Warriors, which included Road Warrior Hawk, whom Parker had once idolized.

Parker got in a punch to start the match, but then was destroyed by the Road Warriors.

Since then, he has wrestled full-time all over the country. In 2020, at the age of 52, he stepped away from the squared ring.

This past week, Parker was named to the Southern States Wrestling Hall of Fame, an organization that kept him busy traveling all over the United States.

During those 20-odd years, he suffered four concussions and had the tip of an ear torn off after a shot from a metal chair shot. Thirty stitches later and after having the ear reattached, he was back in the ring.

In addition, he has broken his wrist, his ankle, and some fingers. He also tore his pectoral muscle, and now he can't turn his neck to the left because of those injuries.

"It was tough professionally, and I loved doing it, a dream come true," he said during an interview this past week.

When asked if he will ever return to the ring in the near future, Parker said he would never say never. But for the most part, he is satisfied with what he has been able to accomplish.

Still, he never did get Road Warrior's autograph. Maybe the only regret he still has.

Blacksburg High School gets new volleyball coach

Marty Gordon
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Blacksburg High School has a new volleyball coach, and it's a familiar face in former junior varsity coach Madison Haynes.

"I applied for this job because volleyball has been a part of my life since I was in middle school. I love spreading my love of the game with other athletes," she said.

Haynes grew up in Bassett and attended Bassett High School, playing travel volleyball in Roanoke.

After high school, she played four years at Bridgewater College and was then an assistant coach at Staunton High School 2021-2022 before relocating to Blacksburg where she served as the junior varsity coach this past year.

"My goals are to rebuild the Blacksburg volleyball program," Haynes said. "Thankfully, I have been able to coach these girls in high school and some through travel. They know that I love to have fun, but when it comes to being in the gym, we are there to do a job. We lost in the region semifinals this year, so my goal is to make it to state this fall."

This past season, Blacksburg finished 14-8 overall and 8-4 in the River Ridge District.

Christiansburg High inducts first sports hall of fame class

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A committee from Christiansburg High School has released the list of 24 players and coaches who were the first to be inducted into the school's sports hall of fame.

The athletes inducted were Joe Board, Jeff Custer, Gloria Dillard, Clifford Dillard, Brian Eigel, Darren Graham, Rebecca McNeil Hubble, Mark Franklin, Randy Lawrence, Jeff Stanley, Billy Parker, Tommy Barber and B.J. Willard.

The coaches inducted were Dean Underwood, Buddy Earp, Randy Bailey, Tim Cromer, Norma Cox, Wally Flinchum, Kevin Dresser, Shane Guynn and Debbie Sherman-Lee. Contributors include Mutt Byrd and Steve Wright.

In late 2019, a committee was established to initiate conversation regarding creating an inaugural class for the CHS Sports Hall of Fame.

The members are all CHS graduates. Through many meetings and a pandemic, the committee, which included AD Tim Cromer, selected 24 candidates for induction, voted on and contacted each candidate, and advised them of their selection for the school's hall of fame.

A public induction ceremony will be held in the school's auditorium on Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m.

East Mont Lady Mustangs advance to state quarterfinals

The Region C championship game was held at Cassell Coliseum on Saturday, Feb. 25. The East Montgomery Lady Mustangs lost in overtime 52-50 to Fort Chiswell. EMHS now has a record of 22 wins and 6 losses and advances to the state quarterfinals, the furthest a team from Eastern Montgomery has ever advanced in tournament play.

The team is coached by Kelley Sutphin.

Senior Lilly Underwood had 26 points and 13 rebounds. Lilly also scored her 1,000th point during the game.

Senior Maddie Bruce scored 9 points.

Local students receive academic achievements

Blacksburg's Diego Centeno earns dean's list at Emerson College

BOSTON -- Emerson College student Diego Centeno, of Blacksburg, earned dean's list honors for the Fall 2022 semester.

The requirement to make dean's list is a grade-point-average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Centeno is majoring in media arts production and is a member of the Class of 2025.

About Emerson College

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Tech wins third straight ACC indoor track and field championship

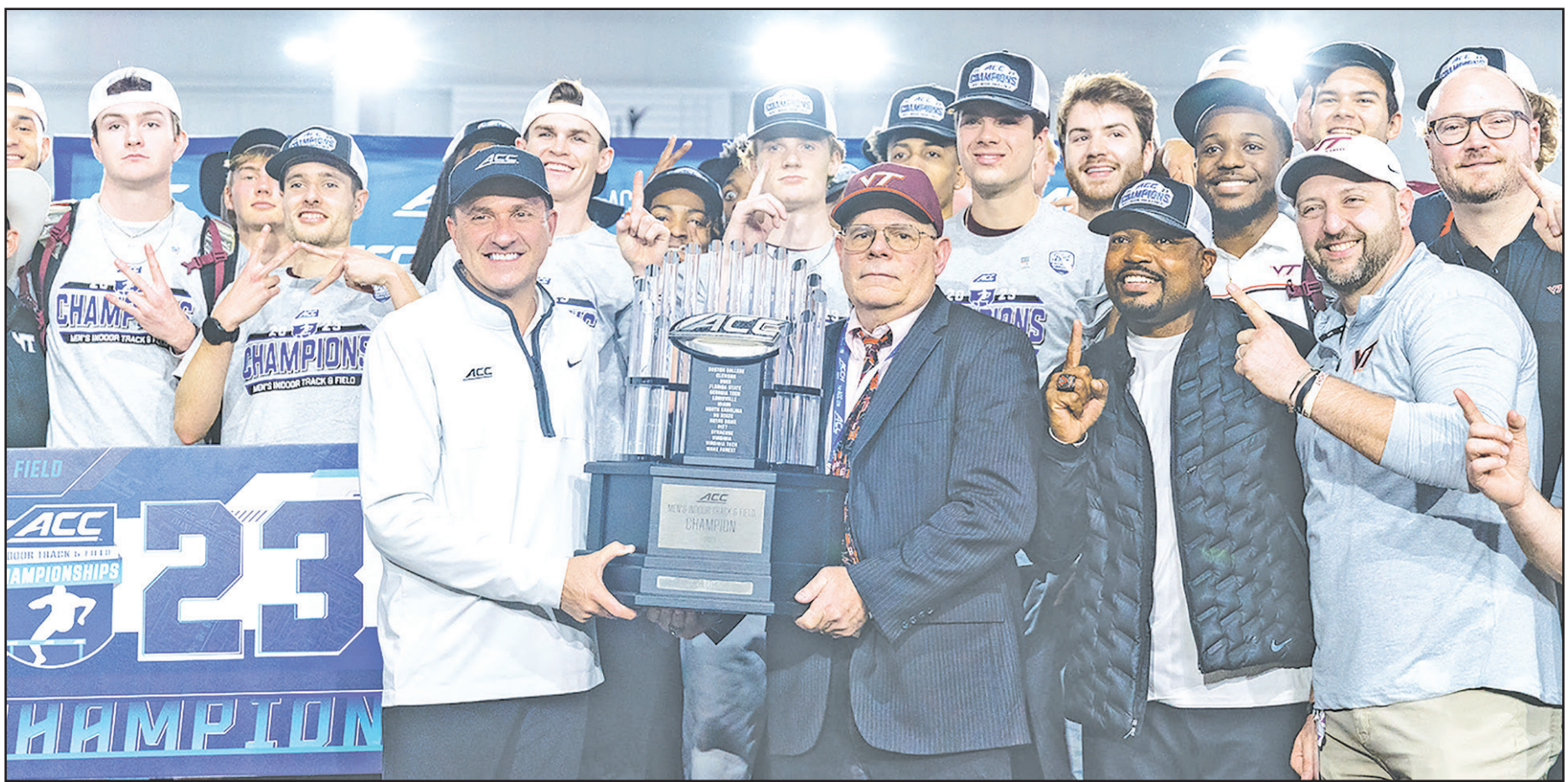


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

History has repeated itself as Virginia Tech's men have swept the ACC indoor track and field championships for the third straight time while the women claimed their second straight title

The Virginia Tech dynasty continues with the men's and women's teams winning both 2023 ACC Indoor Track and Field Championship titles. The men's team picked up their third-straight title with 110.5 points, and the women claimed their second-straight title with 93 points.

The wins at the indoor championships mark the program's 19th and 20th ACC track and field championship titles.

The men's team has won five of the last seven ACC Indoor Championships. The women's team has won three of the last four indoor conference titles.

Day Three of the championships served up one of the most dramatic finishes in conference history as the Virginia Tech women waited for the results from the final heat of the 4x400m relay. Second-place Duke looked to run away with the crown as they led the race, but a last-minute drop of the baton let the Hokies claim victory.

These victories also secured Tech two more points in the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash with UVA to tie it up 6-6, as Tech Athletics looks to defend that title once again this year.

Victoria Gorlova and Cierra Pyles started the day for the Hokie women by placing first and

second in the triple jump, providing 18 points for the team's score. In the women's shot put, freshman Katrin Brzyszkowska finished third with a mark of 16.19m. Essence Henderson finished fifth with a distance of 15.95m.

On the track, Lindsey Butler and Hannah Ballowe earned second-team All-ACC honors finishing fourth and sixth in the 800m. Butler crossed the finish line with a season-best time of 2:04.31, and Ballowe followed behind clocking in at 2:06.12.

Ava Hassebrock placed fourth in the mile with a time of 4:40.99. Layla Anderson placed fifth in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.27.

Conner McClure, Jacob Rice, Harrison Rice, Joey Badalamenti, and Jake Spotswood helped Hokies secure the victory for the men by placing five within the top eight in men's pole vault, adding 26.5 points to the team's score. McClure won the event by clearing an ACC season-best height of 17' 7.75" (5.38m). Jacob Rice placed second with a height of 17' 3.75" (5.28m), followed by Harrison Rice in third ((17' 0" (5.18m)), Badalamenti in seventh ((16' 8" (5.08m)), and Spotswood in eighth ((16' 8" (5.08m)).

Senior Chauncey Chambers jumped 51' 9.75"

(15.79m) on his first attempt of the day in the men's triple jump to finish fourth and earn second-team All-ACC honors.

Sprinter Cole Beck earned two first-team All-ACC honors by placing second in the 60m (6.60) and third in the 200m (20.62). Kennedy Harrison took bronze in the men's 400m, clocking a time of 46.48.

In the men's mile, Viktor Idhammar and Declan Rymer added four points to the men's score placing sixth and eighth, respectively. Idhammar crossed the finish line with a time of 4:01.95, Rymer followed close behind with a time of 4:02.58. Senior Antonio Lopez Segura ran a season-best time in the men's 3000m, finishing third at 7:51.52.

The top three finishers in each individual event at the championships earn first-team All-ACC honors while those placing fourth through sixth are second-team All-ACC. First-team All-ACC honors also go to each member of the winning relay teams with members of each second- and third-place team earning second-team recognition.

The 2023 NCAA Indoor Championships will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico March 10 and 11.

Kitley breaks program's career scoring record at North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Growing up in nearby Summerfield, North Carolina, Virginia Tech center Elizabeth Kitley broke the Hokies' career

scoring record in her home state Thursday night.

The senior made a pull-up jump shot midway through the fourth

quarter at No. 22 North Carolina to mark her 1,884th point, passing former teammate Aisha Sheppard's mark of 1,883 points.



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