

Virginia Tech spring commencement in-person ceremonies set for this week



PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech will spend much of the upcoming week honoring its graduates. The university's main commencement ceremony begins Friday at 8:30 a.m. at Lane Stadium.

BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech will hold in-person commencement ceremonies at Lane Stadium starting Wednesday and running through Sunday. The university will celebrate both graduating seniors and graduate students, along with their families.

The commencement ceremonies begin with the Graduate School's ceremony in Blacksburg at 3:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday. The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine will honor its public health graduates a little later at 7 p.m.

The remainder of the week will include in-person ceremonies for those receiving degrees. All commencement ceremonies will be held at Lane Stadium unless otherwise noted. Find the complete commencement schedule online.

On Friday, the University Commencement ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. ET at Lane Stadium. Jean Case, a digital pioneer and chairwoman of the National Geographic Society, accepted the university's invitation and will deliver the commencement address.

Three students will serve as the speakers at the graduate school ceremony: Kayla Alward, who is earning a Ph.D. from the school of animal sciences (dairy); Megan Van-Spanje who

is earning a master's degree in forest resources and environmental conservation; and Mohannod Elhamod, who is earning a Ph.D. in computer science.

Virginia Tech will honor 6,804 bachelor's degree candidates from all colleges throughout the week. This year, 3,813 graduating Hokies completed their baccalaureate degree programs with honors, having achieved cumulative GPAs of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Here's a look at the number of bachelor's degrees being awarded from each college:

- College of Engineering: 2,109
- Pamplin College of Business: 1,319
- College of Science: 1,108
- College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: 1,075
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: 575
- College of Architecture, Arts and Design: 309
- College of Natural Resources and Environments: 208
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine: 101 *

*Note: The Bachelor of Science in Public Health is offered by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

See Virginia Tech, page 4

New River Valley Master Gardeners Association hosting plant sale and clinic

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Gardeners and plant enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to attend the plant sale and clinic this Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center in Christiansburg.

Perennials, annuals, house plants, vegetables, native plants, trees, and shrubs are just some of the types of plants that will be available at the plant sale. Master gardener volunteers, experts in each plant department, will be available as well to answer questions on a variety of gardening topics.

"We are an educationally focused organization. All of us are volunteers through the Cooperative Extension office and trained in sustainable gardening practices," Wendy Silverman, New River Valley Master Gardener Coordinator, explained.

Almost all the plants provided for the sale are grown by volunteers, with a few donations from area garden centers. The New River Valley Master Gardeners Association is a 100% volunteer-run organization, serving programs in the counties of Pulaski, Giles, Montgomery, and Floyd. All proceeds from the plant

sale event will go to the community grants programs on gardening projects. Applications are opened and received by the organization in the fall.

Beth Kirby, Plant Sales Manager and Master Gardener, explains that the organization is continuing to expand their native plant section. They have also created a database that works on a QR code system. People visiting the sale can click on a QR code associated with the selection of plant variety and receive information about the plant. The organization has worked to condense the information into a user-friendly format but also include the source information where more in-depth facts can be found.

Kirby also explained "all our plants are grown from seed or out of our own gardens."

"When people want to buy something in bloom, they can go to a box store, but our plants will bloom at the proper time as they are grown in a natural environment," said Kirby. "These plants are not imported, so they will continue to thrive here."

The plant sale will be accepting payments through Venmo and Paypal, along with cash and check. The event will be held rain or shine, with some plants sold indoors. A yard sale for plant-type materials and equipment will be available as well. Some things shoppers can expect to find at the yard sale are Duluth Trading Post work bibs, heating mats, and a variety of other products.

Parking is available at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg. View their website at <https://www.nrvmastergardeners.com/> for more information about the organization's work in the New River Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH KIRBY

This potting bench, constructed by a volunteer, will be for sale at the plant sale and clinic.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY SILVERMAN

Beth Kirby prepares a variety of plants for sale by the NRV Master Gardeners Association this Saturday.



Festival organizers chose this "creative, yet timeless interpretation of Blacksburg's favorite summer festival" for the Steppin' Out t-shirt.

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. presents the 42nd annual Steppin' Out t-shirt design

BLACKSBURG — A Blacksburg High school sophomore has created the winning design for this year's Steppin' Out t-shirt.

"The Steppin' Out t-shirt has become an annual collector's item and the design contest is part of the great Steppin' Out tradition," said organizers of the festival. "The festival committee received several submissions for 2023 and ultimately chose a creative, yet timeless interpretation of Blacksburg's favorite summer festival. We are excited to reveal the 2023 design and to introduce you to the artist, Natalie Green, a sophomore at Blacksburg High School."

Green is active in indoor track and softball and hopes to study graphic design in college. The Steppin' Out t-shirt will be available for purchase in early-June from Fringe Benefit, New River Art & Fiber, Atlantic Union Bank North Main Location, and Blacksburg Hardware, and at the festival information booth in August.

Steppin' Out will be held Friday and Saturday, August 4-5 in Downtown Blacksburg. Steppin' Out



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BLACKSBURG INC.

Natalie Green, a sophomore at Blacksburg High School, created the winning design for this year's Steppin' Out t-shirt.

features over 250 artists and crafts people from throughout the US selling unique handcrafted items; sidewalk sales and festival foods provided by downtown merchants; and three stages of live entertainment. For more information or to be a sponsor or volunteer, visit the Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. website at: www.blacksburgsteppinout.com.

-News Messenger staff report

Montgomery County names new human resources director



COURTESY PHOTO Tonia Winn

Tonia Winn has been appointed Director of Human Resources for Montgomery County.

Since February 2023, Winn has been serving as Interim Director of Human Resources, in addition to her role as the Director of Human Services.

"While Tonia has served as the Interim Human Resources Director for the past several months, we have received significant feedback from employees across the organization regarding the positive and supportive attitude she brings," said Angie Hill, Deputy County Administrator and CFO. "Montgomery County is fortunate to have Tonia's experience, as well as her leadership and vision. Her experience, skills, and heart mesh extraordinarily well with this role."

In May 2017, Tonia was named Director of Human Services for Montgomery County. Prior to that she served as Deputy Superintendent at the New River Valley Juvenile Detention Home, overseeing daily operations of the facility and a staff of 22 employees.

Prior to her time with New River Valley Juvenile Detention Home, Tonia served as a probation officer from 2005 to 2013, and as a social worker in Montgomery County (1997-2000), the City of Radford (2000-2003), and in Pulaski County (2003-2005).

"I am thankful for the opportunity to continue assisting current and potential employees at Montgomery County," said Winn. "The Human Resources team and I are looking forward to elevating the existing employee experience with the department, as well as evaluate new and enhanced employee relations activities, policies and procedures."

Winn earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in business from Emory and Henry College.

-Submitted by Montgomery County

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 10:

School Board meeting
Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m., at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

Virtual Author Talk with Jena Friedman
Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 8 - 9 p.m. Celebrity comedian and Oscar-nominated screenwriter Jena Friedman's debut collection, "Not Funny", takes on the third rails of modern life in Jena's bold and subversive style. Register at <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary>.

Friday, May 12:

Art for Tots
At the Blacksburg Library; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Creative exploring has many benefits at an early age! Join us for a process-based art project for tots. Ideal for ages five and under.

Friday, May 12 - Sunday, May 14:

West End Weekend
West End Weekend, a "jam-packed, art-filled celebration" at Glencoe Mansion and Long Way Brewing. Opening reception for the Radford Photo Club at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Friday, May 12. On Saturday, May 13, West End Weekend Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Features more than 30 artisan vendors, live music from The Breakfast Club and FloydFest On-the-Rise band Appalachian Space Train, four food trucks, and an array of craft beers. The event will take place on the upper lawn at Glencoe Mansion. As always, admission is free, but donations are welcomed. "Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and well-mannered dogs, too!" On Sunday, May 14, Long Way Brewing will wrap up the weekend with Market Day at Long Way from 1 - 5 p.m. A dozen artisan vendors will be on site to browse and shop as visitors sip on Long Way Brewing's signature craft brews.

Saturday, May 13:

Mount Tabor Ruritan fish fry
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its May Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. DJ Earl Brown will be spinning some hits to get the 2023 fry season off to a swinging start! Adults-\$12, children under 12 - \$6, (under 3)- free, carry-

outs- \$12. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Rockin' Main Street Concert
Downtown Christiansburg; 5 - 9 p.m. Hosted by The Town of Christiansburg's Parks and Recreation Department. Enjoy musical entertainment by the Carolina Shreds and Miller Holler, as well as beer, wine, and other food and drinks from your favorite local vendors.

Tuesday, May 16:

DIY Terrariums
At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Assemble a miniature terrarium. Ideal for ages 8-plus.

Wednesday, May 17:

VR Wednesday
At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Come take a hike, paint a masterpiece, or explore the international space station at the library! Try all these things and more using our new Meta Quest 2 VR headset. If that's not a good time for you, email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to schedule a time for a 30 minute demo!

American Business Women's Association meeting
American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network May Luncheon Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr., Christiansburg. Cost \$16. Join us to learn about different generations' mindsets, paradigms, and spending habits and how we can more effectively reach our target audiences from one of our own members, Linna Martz, realtor at Long & Foster Real Estate. RSVP by May 15 to Terri Welch at paintnfunceramics@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 18:

Community Quilting Bee
At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Meadowbrook Quilters
At the Meadowbrook Library; 6:30 - 8 p.m. All age groups and skill levels are encouraged to participate in this informal gathering of individuals who love quilting or just want to learn the craft. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, in the Studio Room of the Meadowbrook Center.

Sons of Confederate Veterans
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, May 22:

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, May 23:

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 the 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.

On-going:

Glencoe Mansion announces call for art for Mary Draper Ingles Show
Glencoe Mansion is calling for art for its July-August 2023 Gallery Exhibit, "A Journey For All," a multi-artist show themed on the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles. Accepted artwork should reflect the life and times of Ingles (Colonial times). Can include depictions of local landmarks (Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. Painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered - up to three works per artist. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms at www.glencoe mansion.org or by contacting arts@glencoe mansion.org.

Blacksburg Farmers Market
Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market
Thursdays; 3 - 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market
2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Radford Field of Honor
Field of Honor on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery- displayed until the Fourth of July. The Radford Noon Rotary Club is seeking people to sponsor flags to honor a veteran, first responder, family member, teacher, associate, etc. Individual flags - \$50. Blue sponsorship - \$500, includes five flags plus signage. White sponsorship - \$1,000, includes 10 flags plus signage. Red sponsorship - \$2,500, includes 10 flags plus premium signage. Money raised benefits scholarships to RHS students attending Radford University, polio eradication, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery, Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, Elf Shelf, the Women's Resource Center, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Vittles for Vets, Beans and Rice, the Wheelchair Foundation, Wonder Universe Children's Museum, Shelterbox and Sunset Garden. Contact Tom Alston with Radford Noon Rotary at rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com or register at: <https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm>.

SAY IT LOUD!

CARILIONPROUD

Carilion Proud Week is May 7-13

Every day, every shift our employees make us proud—and we want everyone to know it! That's why this week is about celebrating the unique ways you each inspire us.

From brightening a patient's day to seeking out medicine's next big ideas, you show us what it means to care for others. And for that, we're saying "thank you!" loud and proud.

If you're part of the #CarilionProud family or if you love someone who is, share the hashtag on your socials this week!

Learn more about our mission and joining our team at CarilionClinic.org/careers.



Equal Opportunity Employer

Minorities/Females/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

Spencer Dental & Braces™

Attention Spencer Dental & Braces Patients,

We regret to inform you that Spencer Dental & Braces located at 135 Conston Avenue, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 will permanently close effective May 31, 2023. We would love for you to continue your care with Spencer Dental & Braces at our Roanoke office, which is located at 5002 Airport Road NW, Unit #130 Roanoke, Virginia 24012. Please call (540) 362-5437 in order to schedule an appointment at the Roanoke office.

Unless we receive direction otherwise from you, a copy of your records will be transferred to the Roanoke office. We can also release the records to you or to another person you designate with appropriate authorization. If you would like your records transferred to another dentist and/or would like a copy of your records, please contact: Records_Request@Benevis.com.

Please include the following information in your request:

- Patient's full name
- Patient's date of birth
- Patient's address
- Name of the dental office you are requesting records from
- Name and email address of the dental office to which your records should be sent

If you have any questions regarding your care or with respect to records requests, please reach out to us at (540) 362-5437.

Sincerely,
The Spencer Dental & Braces Team

Rooftop restaurant and bar, Bee & Butter, opens at the Highlander Hotel

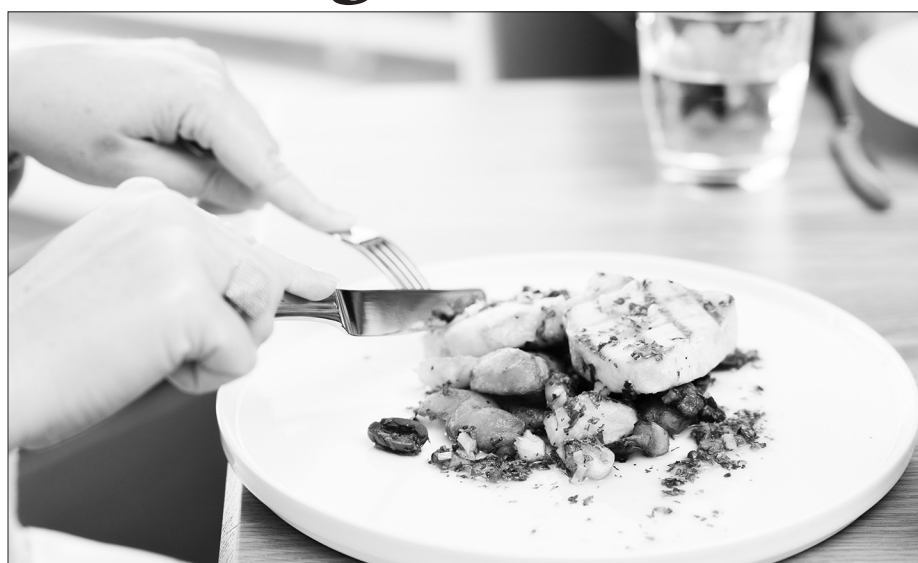


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINA ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY
The new Bee & Butter features local, seasonal ingredients and regional cuisine.

RADFORD – The Highlander Hotel Radford’s rooftop restaurant and bar, Bee & Butter, is now open and accepting reservations. With a culinary team led by Executive Chef James Kirby and Sous Chef Amy Murray, the new Bee & Butter features local, seasonal ingredients, regional cuisine, and stunning mountain and campus vistas.

Kirby is a veteran of a wide array of fine and casual dining restaurants including the legendary three Michelin-star restaurant The Inn at Little Washington, where he rose to sous chef during his five-year tenure. He has also worked at other notable locations in and around the nation’s capital region including Blue Duck

Tavern, the Watergate Hotel, and L’Ardente. Kirby has helped train the next generation of chefs as a culinary instructor and owns an organic farm where he cultivates the best produce to supply to top restaurants across the state.

“This is a region with great foodways and traditions,” Kirby said. “At Bee and Butter, we’ll be using seasonal, local ingredients to bring guests a taste of the Blue Ridge with a twist. We’re working with as many food producers in the area as we can to bring an elevated dining experience to locals and visitors alike in a beautiful but relaxed atmosphere.”

Sous Chef Amy Murray also brings an impressive culinary resume. Prior to joining the Highlander

Hotel Radford team, she worked at a wide range of restaurants across the U.S. including celebrity chef Tom Colicchio’s establishment, Temple Court in New York City’s Beekman Hotel.

“I’ve worked with Chef Kirby before, and I am excited to be part of this new hotel and dining experience,” Murray said. “I love using special ingredients and fun techniques to offer an exceptional dining experience and this rooftop dining experience lets me do all of that while still being a bit whimsical in our delivery.”

Reservations can be made through Open Table at www.opentable.com.

-Submitted by Highlander Hotel

Virginia gas prices lower than last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 6.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.33/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 10.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 89.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 6.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.01 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.73/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.26/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 7.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.50/g today. The national average is down 7.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 80.7 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.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- May 8, 2022: \$4.22/g (U.S. Average: \$4.31/g)
- May 8, 2021: \$2.77/g (U.S. Average: \$2.96/g)
- May 8, 2020: \$1.68/g (U.S. Average: \$1.83/g)
- May 8, 2019: \$2.64/g (U.S. Average: \$2.88/g)
- May 8, 2018: \$2.63/g (U.S. Average: \$2.82/g)
- May 8, 2017: \$2.15/g (U.S. Average: \$2.33/g)
- May 8, 2016: \$2.08/g (U.S. Average: \$2.21/g)
- May 8, 2015: \$2.43/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)
- May 8, 2014: \$3.49/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)
- May 8, 2013: \$3.36/g (U.S. Average: \$3.54/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.28/g, down 6.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.34/g,

Richmond- \$3.29/g, down 8.0 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.37/g,

West Virginia- \$3.43/g,

down 4.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.48/g.

“For the third straight week, consumers have been greeted by falling gasoline prices across a majority of the country, thanks to oil prices holding near recent lows and the transition to summer gasoline being essentially complete. While there have been a few pockets of rising prices, those have been the needle in the haystack, with nearly every single state seeing gas prices fall,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “In addition to gasoline prices declining, the average price of a gallon of diesel will join gasoline in the days ahead, falling below \$4 per gallon in the next 48 hours or so, a sign of how far we’ve come. Americans are spending hundreds of millions less on fuel every week compared to a year ago, and that’s a number that could rise further as prices are poised to continue trending lower this week.”

-Submitted by Gas Buddy

POLICE REPORT

Montgomery County Jail arrest log April 22- 28, 2023

Saturday, April 22: Helmondollar, John Simple assault, vandalism, damage property intentionally Coffey, Taylor Narcotics possession, DWI - first conviction, influence of drugs, license revoked-drive while - (first offense), possession of controlled paraphernalia O’Berry, Mark Narcotics possession Slusher, Dianna Probation violation - felony Early, Wyatt Simple assault Bunn, Scott Driving while intoxicated - first offense Mayer, Steven Obscenity drunk in public - profane language Keister, Ronald Felony probation violation Rupp, Noah Drunk in public - profane language Hall, Christopher Violation of a protective order

Sunday, April 23: Clark, Marcus DWI - First Conviction, Influence of Drugs Faizal, Bastih Obscenity Drunk in Public - Profane Language Baderdinni, Pratik Obscenity Drunk in Public - Profane Language Allen, Justice Resisting Arrest, Obstructing Justice w/o Threats of Force, Reckless Driving, Disregard Police Command to Stop – Endangerment, Larceny less than \$1000 not from person, Simple Assault – Against Family Member, Stalking with Intent to Cause Fear or Death

Monday, April 24: Custer, Brittany Larceny auto theft - grand larceny, narcotics possession Blankenship, Denna Possession of controlled paraphernalia, narcotics possession Willie, David Fail to appear in violation of conditions of release, pretrial rel. probation violation - felony Baker, Mathias Simple Assault

Tuesday, April 25: Phillips, Cody Probation violation - felony Sabin, Jonathan Obscenity drunk in public - profane language Bishop, Matthew Cause sodomy of a child

Wednesday, April 26: Casey, Anna Narcotics possession Smith, Anthony Narcotics possession Mitchem, Wesley Narcotics possession Mattox, Hampton Obscenity drunk in public - profane language Thomas, Samantha Riot and unlawful assembly resist or obstruct execution of legal process Longrie, Frank II Narcotics possession Poore, James Probation violation - felony Porter, Timothy Temporary hold Hack, Misty Gross, wanton, or reckless care for child family offense, Contribute to delinquency - abuse of child, contribute to delinquency - abuse of child, Prevention of arrest by law enforcement officer Williams, Brandon

Adams, Brad Jr. Probation Violation – Felony

Thursday, April 27: Keister, Thelma Probation violations – felony, weapons convicted felon (non-violent) possess/transport firearm Stoots, Kenneth Jr. DWI - First conviction, influence of drugs Mollett, Robert Simple assault - against family member Duncan, Garnett Simple assault - against family member, narcotics possession Saligan Alvizar, Rufino DWI: drugs, 2nd offense w/in 5-10 years, operator’s license license revoked-drive while - (first offense)

Friday, April 28: Howard, Angela Violation protective order (general) Karres, Allison Pretrial rel. viol. of conditions of rel, fail to appear fel/misd/summons Stanger, Faith Viol. of conditions of rel, pretrial rel. probation violation – felony Mosley, Takoda Violation of a protective order, simple assault, violent activities, wearing of masks or hoods in certain places, larceny less than \$1000 not from person, larceny shoplift - alter price tags < \$1000 (first time) Sellers, Michelle Larceny, shoplift - alter price tags < \$1000 (first time) Spradling, Justin DUI- 2nd offense in 5 to 10 years refusal: breath; 2nd+ offense, drive without a license Obano Avila, Patrick Obscenity drunk in public - profane language

Narcotics possession, Drugs/alcohol: screening tests, dist urine

Friday, April 28: Howard, Angela Violation protective order (general) Karres, Allison Pretrial rel. viol. of conditions of rel, fail to appear fel/misd/summons Stanger, Faith Viol. of conditions of rel, pretrial rel. probation violation – felony Mosley, Takoda Violation of a protective order, simple assault, violent activities, wearing of masks or hoods in certain places, larceny less than \$1000 not from person, larceny shoplift - alter price tags < \$1000 (first time) Sellers, Michelle Larceny, shoplift - alter price tags < \$1000 (first time) Spradling, Justin DUI- 2nd offense in 5 to 10 years refusal: breath; 2nd+ offense, drive without a license Obano Avila, Patrick Obscenity drunk in public - profane language

PETS OF THE WEEK



Jan



Princess

Meet Jan! She’s a friendly gal who is ready to sniff out her forever home. Jan gets along with other dogs but cats are not her cup of tea. She would likely enjoy activities where she can stretch her legs and release some energy. She will gladly sit for a delicious treat! Princess is a sweet gal. She can be a little shy but warms up when she feels comfortable. She doesn’t need a prince to

fill her days, just a nice human or two to provide some attention and affection. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her. You could be her purrfect match! These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg, Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Ride of Silence to honor cyclists killed or injured on public roads

RADFORD – On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, cyclists from across the New River Valley will gather for the 16th Annual Ride of Silence - a silent, slow-paced ride in honor of cyclists who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways.

Staging will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Radford City Administrative Services Building, 10 Robertson St., and end at the same location. The Ride of Silence is a solemn and powerful global event that brings attention to the dangers cyclists face on the road and the need for increased awareness and safety measures. The ride is conducted in silence to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives while

cycling and to raise awareness of the importance of sharing the road. The ride is also a reminder of the dangers that cyclists face on public roads.

In 2022, there were 825 cyclists killed in the United States. That number has been on the rise in recent years. The event is open and accessible to cyclists of all ages and abilities, and participants are encouraged to wear helmets and other safety gear.

There will be a police escort along the seven-mile route. For more information about the Ride of Silence, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3181867088724505>.

-Submitted by Jenn Million, President of the New River Valley Bicycle Association



FILE PHOTO The 16th Annual Ride of Silence, a silent, slow-paced ride in honor of cyclists who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways, is set for Wednesday, May 17.

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

Virginia Tech from page 1

In all, 1,177 students will be participating in the graduate school ceremonies, including 1,028 in Blacksburg and 149 in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area. A total of 213 Ph.D. recipients are expected for hooding at the Blacksburg commencement with an additional 21 in the D.C. area.

Here's a look at the number of graduate degrees being awarded: Master's degrees: 1,205; Advanced graduate certificates: 182; Ph.D.'s: 284; Ed.D.'s: 26; and Education specialists: 7.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine plans to hand out Doctor of Veterinary Medicines to 120 recipients on Friday. The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

honored 40 graduates at its ceremony May 6.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is recognizing 255 graduates from its program. Of those, 169 will be entering service in the military as commissioned officers: 91 in the U.S. Army, 40 in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, and 38 in the U.S. Air Force. In addition, 51 are Citizen-Leader Track graduates.

In addition, Virginia Tech will be hosting multiple cultural achievement ceremonies throughout the week. Those include Aliyah (a celebration of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students); American Indian and Indigenous (for Native students); APIDA (for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American students); Donning of the

Kente (for those of African American heritage); First Together (for first-generation undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. candidates); Gesta Latina (for student of Hispanic or Latino descent); Disabilities Community; Lavender (for LGBTQ+ graduates), Veterans (for student graduates who are veterans of military service), and Recovery Community (for student graduates who have overcome addictions).

For those with questions about commencement, please visit the university's commencement FAQ web page. For other information related to commencement, please visit the university's commencement site.

-Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

'The Underwater Wonders of Toms Creek' exhibition highlights collaboration and community partnership in ecosystem education

BLACKSBURG — Swimming through the Perspective Gallery, hundreds of colorful paper cutouts of the native bluehead chub minnow accompany the calming sounds of water. Video projections of the male bluehead chub darting and building nests contrast with the serene, softly lit space.

The nest-building process is simple, methodical, and transfixing as the male minnow carries pebbles one by one in its mouth to build a mound in the stream, attract a mate, and spawn. In doing this, the bluehead chub not only guarantees the species' survival each spring, but the mounds provide a safe spawning nest for up to nine other minnow species in the Toms Creek watershed.

Researchers in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech have observed and explored the habitats at Toms Creek at Deerfield Park since 2008, as the bluehead chub minnow is a "keystone" in the survival of other minnow species

and provides stability to the ecosystem. Predators, pollution, and population growth all threaten the local waterbody, a tributary of the New River.

While public education has been a constant component of the research, this two-year collaborative project involving Student Engagement and Campus Life, the Perspective Gallery, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and faculty members from the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design helped make science more accessible to members of the community through visual art, theatre productions, and the immersive art exhibition. "The Underwater Wonders of Toms Creek" allows visitors to see these fish "out of the water" with the hopes of cultivating a better understanding of conservation efforts.

"Arts communicate with the viewers directly and inclusively without boundaries," said Hiromi Okumura, assistant professor in the School of Visual Arts and one of the collaborators on the project. "When art inspires humanity, magic happens."

The genesis of the project began in the Center for Communicating Science via a collaboration incubator facilitated by the center's Director Patty Raun, who is also a professor of theatre in the School of Performing Arts, and colleagues in the center. Emmanuel Frimpong, the principal investigator on the bluehead chub research, has guided the study for more than 15 years, funded by a National Science Foundation grant. Okumura, Frimpong, and Eugene G. Maurakis, a scientist, researcher, and science communicator from the University of Richmond, initially met in a Zoom break-out room where Frimpong and Maurakis introduced Okumura to the bluehead chub minnow, called "chubbies," and the research at Toms Creek. The team included C. Meranda Flachs-Surmanek of the School of Public and International Affairs and contributors from the Center for Communicating Science.

Sponsored by a major SEAD Grant from the Virginia Tech Institute of Creativity, Arts, and Technology, and collaborative efforts of many across disciplines, Toms Creek and the community's artistic renditions of the bluehead chub found a temporary home on campus.

"The photos of the bluehead chubs Emmanuel and Eugene showed me in that meeting were so memorable and lovely, I just wanted to know more, learn more," Okumura said. "I did not know about this unique fish, and I wanted to learn more immediately.

The next spring, Okumura found herself wearing waders, side-by-side with the Toms Creek researchers as they counted the fish and measured the sizes of the nests and the speeds of the currents during the spring spawning season.

"There is an amazing world of aquatic life that I had never known before," said Okumura. "Fascinating! I totally fell in love with chubbies when I saw them for the first time, and I immediately thought we need to protect this precious and vulnerable environment. Chubbies are doing amazing work creating communities and maintaining underwater ecosystems. It is up to humans to protect them for the future."

"The Underwater Wonders of Toms Creek" is inspired by the research of three Frimpong Lab graduate students, Samantha Brooks, Thomas Bustamante, and Maddie Betts, in the Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

The team of dedicated individuals helped the Blacksburg and New River Valley communities connect to the natural spaces around them. Contributors to the exhibition include Okumura; Robin Scully, art program director of the Perspective Gallery and School of Visual Arts faculty member; graduate researchers; Caroline Marcyes, a graduate student master's program in material culture and public humanities and gallery lead; and two gallery interns, Emma Wilson and Anderson Huband.

As part of the Perspective Gallery's Art Reach program, they helped community members learn about the Toms Creek watershed through "Watercolor Wednesdays" at the Blacksburg Farmers Market. During weekly events, visitors could create watercolor fish, turtles, and other aquatic creatures, which are now part of the exhibit, swimming through the gallery space.

Each painted fish hanging on mobiles in the Perspective Gallery is more than paper and paint — each represents someone who learned about the bluehead chub through the outreach programs.

"My focus, as a curator, as an artist, and as the director of the gallery, evolves out of creating exhibits that help people feel empowered to make the world a better place," said Scully. "Sharing the bluehead chub research in an accessible and visual format in an exhibition gives patrons information on how they can become stewards of where they live. Creating

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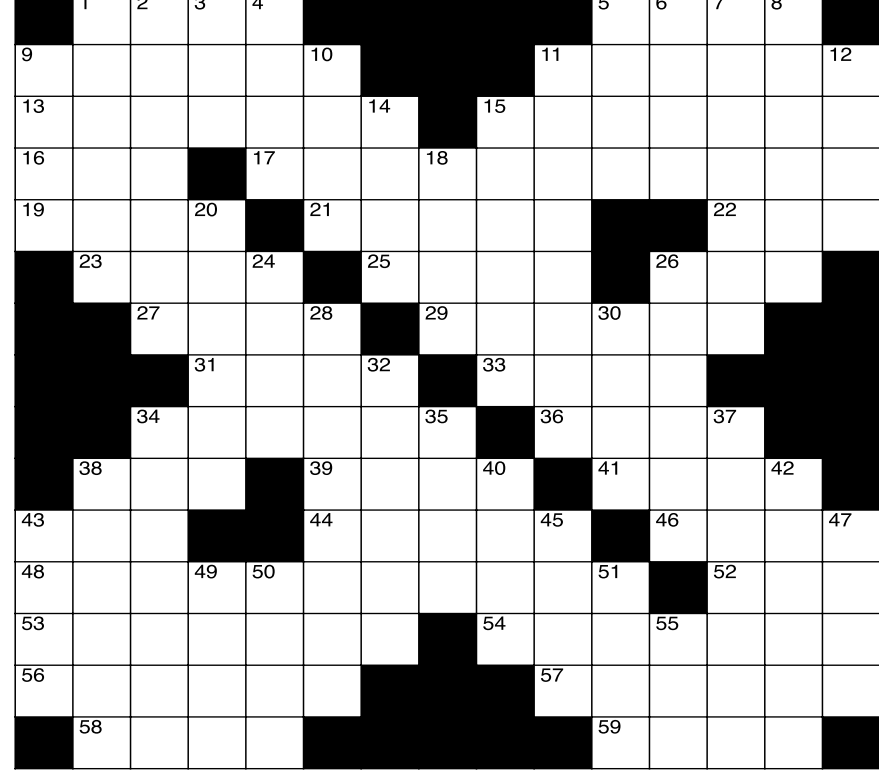
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. As fast as can be done
 - 5. WC's
 - 9. Religious retreat
 - 11. Warfare
 - 13. One you wouldn't expect
 - 15. Disease-causing micro-organisms
 - 16. For each
 - 17. Grammatical term
 - 19. One point east of southeast
 - 21. ___ Dern, actress
 - 22. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
 - 23. Shampoo
 - 25. Scale drawing of a structure
 - 26. An enclosure for confining livestock
 - 27. Goat-like mammal
 - 29. Cigar
 - 31. Appear
 - 33. "Westworld" actress ___ Rachel Wood
 - 34. Leaked through
 - 36. The highest adult male singing voice
 - 38. Musical group ___ Soundsystem
 - 39. Aurochs
 - 41. Crazy (Spanish)
 - 43. Swiss river
 - 44. Strains
 - 46. Frock
 - 48. Found in most body tissues
 - 52. Cool!
 - 53. Reasons behind
 - 54. Christian recluse
 - 56. Removes
 - 57. Repents
 - 58. Energy
 - 59. Tailless amphibian
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Not awake
 - 2. Type of dessert
 - 3. They ___
 - 4. Retired Coast Guard admiral
 - 5. Gene positions
 - 6. Exclude
 - 7. One who is bound
 - 8. Where drinks are served
 - 9. Small vipers
 - 10. Blackbird
 - 11. Adventurer
 - 12. Shade
 - 14. A way to gain
 - 15. A salt or ester of boric acid
 - 18. Monetary units
 - 20. Removed
 - 24. "My country, tis of ___"
 - 26. Horses
 - 28. Drives back by force
 - 30. Bold, impudent behavior
 - 32. Rates
 - 34. Types of nerves in males
 - 35. A ridge of sand created by the wind
 - 37. Wind instrument
 - 38. Pakistani city
 - 40. Dry or withered
 - 42. Delivered a speech
 - 43. Peak
 - 45. Small waterbird
 - 47. Days falling in mid-month
 - 49. Elvis' daughter
 - 50. Flat and smooth
 - 51. Dallas Cowboys great Leon
 - 55. What cows say



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OBITUARIES

Akers, Lindsey Nelson

Lindsey Nelson Akers, 54, of Christiansburg, went to be with the Lord, on May 4, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.

He is preceded in death by his father, Thurman Akers. Left to cherish his memory are, his wife of 33 years, Vicki Wheeling Akers; son, Shane Akers; daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Adam White; mother, Edith Smith Akers; brother and sister-in-law, Toby and Carmen

Akers; sisters and brother-in-law, Linda Kinzer,



Brenda Fisher, Gail and

Darrell Custer; numerous uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many, many special friends. He was employed by Tenneco (Federal-Mogul) for 35 years.

The family received friends Sunday, May 7, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home, with a funeral service following in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jerry Shepherd, Rev. Lee Sarver, and Rev. Darrell Linkous officiating.

Barta, Joseph Arthur

Joseph Arthur Barta passed away on the morning of May 4, 2023. He was born in Richlands, Va. on October 24, 1938, the only child of the late Joseph Andrew Barta and Mae Spriggs Barta.

When he was a young child, his family moved to the coalfields of McDowell County, W.Va. He was a 1956 Gary High School graduate, where he was a standout on the basketball and football teams. He was also elected Homecoming King, won the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Award, and was one of the first recipients in the country of the SAT National Merit Scholar Award. Although he lived most of his adult life in Southwest Virginia, he always considered himself a West Virginian.

He attended Virginia Tech as a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated in 1960. He married Sue Ann Blair, a fellow Gary High School graduate, and they moved to Morgantown, where he attended West Virginia University medical school. He excelled in medical school and afterward moved his young family to Germany to honorably serve his country in the

US Army for three years, attaining the rank of Major. He attended Duke University's prestigious residency program in ophthalmology. After completing his residency, he and Sue moved to Radford with their four children to begin his successful ophthalmic



practice. He took care of thousands of patients over 30 years, with three busy offices at the height of his career.

He was known for his quick wit, keen intellect, and his medical knowledge and skill — both in the office and surgical suite. He was a fierce competitor on the racquetball court and played daily for many years. He also loved playing pick-up basketball and was able to play full court basketball

with his children and grandchildren well into his 70's. He was a proud member of MENSA and an avid jeopardy fan. He enjoyed playing poker with his friends. He loved and was so proud of his family and above all was devoted to his wife, Sue, who was his constant companion and caretaker over the past few years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved son, Michael Joseph Barta, and is survived by his wife, Sue; son, Mark Blair Barta (Amy); daughter Amy Barta Wall (Jimmy); and daughter Laura Jo Barta. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Radford with the Reverend Cassidy Stinson presiding. Interment followed at West View cemetery in Radford. The family would like to thank Dr. Chuck Judy and the staff of Intrepid USA hospice as well as Father Cassidy for their care and support.

The Barta family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Meincke, David Lee

Our beloved David Lee Meincke, 76, of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., formerly of Blacksburg, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on April 29, 2023. David was born on December 14, 1946 and was the proud son of the late Henri G. Meincke III and Josephine Nichols Meincke. Born and raised in Roanoke, he was a graduate of Patrick Henry High School, class of 1965. David displayed honorable leadership proficiency in his teens as an Eagle Scout and Drum Major of the Patrick Henry Marching Band. It was during band camp at Concord College that he met the love of his life, his wife and partner of 59 years, Elizabeth Holdren Meincke (Libby) when they were both 16. Their love story is the stuff that fairy tales are made of and created a legacy for all who were blessed to witness the unconditional love and mutual respect that characterized their long marriage.

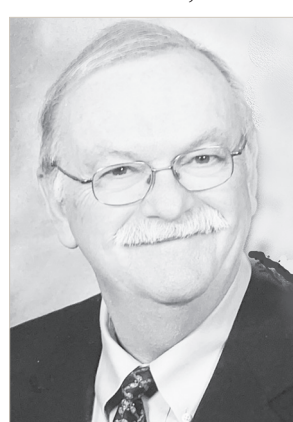
David attended Roanoke College, majoring in chemistry, preparing for a long career in medicine. Following his graduation from Roanoke College, he married Libby in a beautiful ceremony on June 21, 1969 that continues to be regaled more than five decades later. The impressive couple made a lasting connection to Colonial Williamsburg on their honeymoon and often revisited during the holiday season to experience the Grand Illumination on cobblestoned streets while enjoying cider and cookies from Raleigh Tavern.

David and Libby moved to Richmond where David began his formal medical education and residency at the Medical College of Virginia with a focus in Obstetrics and Gynecology while Libby financially supported them as a dedicated and caring elementary school teacher. Following David's residency, he and Libby moved to Blacksburg where he began an almost 40-year career as a OBGYN, launching a new medical practice, Montgomery Obstetrics and Gynecology, alongside his dear friends and colleagues Dr. Charles Y. Davis and the late Dr. Bill Isenhour. David and Libby put down roots at Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg and sang in the church choir for many years.

Shortly after moving to Blacksburg David and Libby had their two beloved daughters, Allison Meincke Shaw and Kristin Elizabeth Kasselmann, 11 months apart - Irish twins! The family of four created beautiful memories sailing on David's boat on Smith Mountain Lake, camping in the pop-up camper, and visiting Florida and Sunset Beach, N.C. in the summers. The most

treasured trip was sailing the Virgin Islands together as a family, a tradition that was established with dear lifelong friends Danny and Ann Hardy.

David's chivalrous character and love of travel were firmly developed during his teenage years when he drove his widowed neighbor and her disabled child across the country, and after earning a trip to Italy when he won the Young Columbus VIII contest for his stellar newspaper sales. In addition to travel, David enjoyed woodworking and built an elaborate backyard deck and designed and resurrected a stilted tree house for his family at their home in Blacksburg. David also enjoyed dove hunting trips to Mexico and the Eastern Shore in Maryland. In the fall you could always find him hiking in the woods in pursuit of a deer, a passion that he passed down to his brave daughter Kristin who took a record breaking 444-pound black bear with a bow in Saskatchewan, Canada.



David was humble to his core and had so many talents, including an impressive gift for cooking, creating art in his kitchen for family and friends. He loved being on the golf course, occasionally he played clever golf ball pranks on his older brother Don. His sly moments were few but entertaining, sometimes accompanied by funny nicknames during five-card Gin Rummy.

David and Libby's annual Christmas Eve parties in Blacksburg were legendary and cultivated a lasting tradition for their close circle of friends and extended families. David's hands were never idle, his passion and purpose to help others in all facets of his life demonstrated focus and discipline. His gentle yet influential footprint in our community is nothing short of inspiration. David delivered more than 4000 children in his stunning career and expertly cared for countless other adults in various concentrations of medicine.

David analyzed and heroically managed his oldest daughter Allison's cancer battle with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 1997 and it was because of his careful research that she was able to conceive children after chemotherapy treatment. David was on the front lines, at Lewis Gale Montgomery Hospital, on April 16, 2007 attending to the victims in the Virginia Tech shooting. The Hippocratic Oath was tattooed on his heart and

he continued the practice of providing exemplary medical service even as a stage-four cancer patient himself. In February 2023 David was flying back from Las Vegas, a trip planned to celebrate what he believed was his cancer's remission. An emergency medical call rang out over the cabin speakers. Without hesitation, David answered the call and cared for a very sick lady who was unconscious while toting his portable oxygen unit the entire length of the plane. There was never a pause, his selfless love and genuine care for others always came before preservation for himself.

Our hearts are comforted that our patriarch, our protector allowed Libby, Allison and Kristin to hold his hands (and his heart) as he took his last breaths and made his final transition to heaven, finally free from the pain of his illness. This was the ultimate gift to his girls who had been protected for a lifetime by their fearless and deeply loving husband and father to be able to hold David close in his final moments on Earth. The setting of his passing proved poetic and absolutely perfect for the kindest man many of us will ever know, surrounded by flourishing gardens, singing birds, and a gorgeous sunrise at the SECU Brunswick County Hospice House and a compassionate team of angelic nurses.

In addition to his adoring wife, Libby, of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., David is survived by his two devoted daughters and their supportive husbands who he considered as sons, Allison Shaw (Kevin), of Blacksburg, and Kristin Kasselmann (Bryan) of Stilwell, Kan. David was also blessed to be a grandfather to seven surviving grandchildren, Lindsay Shaw Duck (Ryan) of Christiansburg, Allison L. Shaw of Peoria, Ill., Chloe and Christian Davis of Blacksburg, and Atali, Dakota and Peyton Shaw of Chapel Hill, N.C. David is also survived by his two wonderful brothers, Donald Meincke (Bonnie) of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. and Darryl Meincke (Phyllis) of Chesapeake, Va. along with six nieces and nephews, and eight grand nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of David's Life on Friday, July 7, 2023 at 3 p.m. at Ocean View Baptist (7025 Beach Drive, SW - Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.), officiated by his beloved brother and pastor, Darryl Meincke. Reception to follow the service in the banquet hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society www.cancer.org or Colonial Williamsburg www.colonialwilliamsburg.org. Online condolences are encouraged and may be sent to the family at www.fulwoodfuneralservice.com.

Patterson, Leah Rae

Leah Rae Patterson, 26, formerly of Radford, passed away on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

The family will receive friends from 2 - 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Community Life Church at the Norwood Room. A celebration of life will begin at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, PO Box 37920, Boone IA 50037-0920.

Leah died living. As her friend and coworker Kerith said, "Leah LIVED. She took full advantage of every morsel that life has to offer." To know Leah was to love Leah. She knew how to love well with abandon and unconditionally. She was a champion for the underdog and stood up for her beliefs in her #BigStrongGirl style. There would be few to say they were not touched by her light. The joy and unabashed fervor for

living life to the fullest and the importance of staying in the moment was her style. She believed in being fully present for each person she was with. #LeahRaeofSun was a sunbeam to everyone. The world is now a dimmer



place without her, but the legacy of loving large and hard on every person we are blessed to meet can easily be the lesson of her life.

Leah created family wherever she went. Her loss is grieved by so many friends and family. To carry on without her

are her best friend in the world, her dog, Fern; her parents, Mark and Blenna Patterson; her brother, Ryan Patterson; her partner, Andrew Hopkins; her grandmother, Nancy Curl; aunts and uncles, Chip and Marywood Sparks, Chuck and Becki Patterson, and Ruthie and David Martin; her best girlfriends and previous roommates, Paige Williams, Maggi Weiseman, Indigo Ludwig, Callie Friedberg, Lindi Smith and Carly Mannon; all of her coworkers at @TequilaandDeadliftsGym, @RiversideOutfittersRVA, @FarFlungAdventures, and @Angel_Fire_Resort; many, many other family members and friends; and every single person who was blessed to be in the presence of her "rae" of sun.

Welcome home child, you lived and loved well.

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

Get Dad out of the house.....

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Community Foundation of the NRV supports students with scholarships

This spring, the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) gave out \$141,066 in scholarships to 81 students living or studying in the New River Valley (NRV), including 20 who are first in their family to attend college.

The CFNRV celebrated with the scholarship recipients and their loved ones at a luncheon on May 7.

Since 2002, the CFNRV has awarded \$1,114,731 to 940 students pursuing a wide variety of majors and certifications. Many of these students are funded for multiple years throughout their higher education experiences. Funding for these scholarships comes from generous donors, including individuals, families, and businesses, all with a desire to support the continuing education of high school seniors, college students, and students attending trade or technical schools.

"My mother, June Wang, loved being a teacher at Blacksburg High School. Students were her top priority and she cared deeply about instilling in them a sense of global citizenship and community involvement," said Xiao-Wei Wang, who, along with her family, established the June Liang Wang Scholarship Fund, which gave out two scholarships this year. "With thanks to community support and under the direction of the CFNRV, we are able to continue mom's legacy through her memorial scholarship."

Donors work with the CFNRV to set up a scholarship fund based on specific criteria such as where the student is attending school, their financial needs, or their career goals. When the fund is fully endowed, income generated from the investment can start awarding scholarships annually, with the goal of funding students for generations to come. Currently, the foundation has 50 scholarship funds.

The 2023 scholarship recipients include 50 high school seniors, with the greatest number of students coming from Blacksburg High School (11), Floyd County High School (10), Christiansburg High School (8), Eastern Montgomery High School (6), and Auburn High School (4.) Also receiving scholarships this year are 31 college students, with the most students coming from Virginia Tech (16) and New River Community College (6.)

"We received a record number of applications this year and I am proud to say that we were able to fund over half of them," said Laura Pynn, who manages the CFNRV scholarship program. "It is

very important to us to help students find a way to realize their dreams when, for so many, college seems so out of reach."

Next year's scholarship application cycle will open this October, with a deadline to apply in January 2024. Anyone interested in learning more about establishing a scholarship fund to support students in our region may contact the foundation at 540-381-8999 or cfnrv@cfnrv.org.

Recipients include:

High School Students:
 Auburn High School
 Rachel Brotherton, \$1,900 from the W. F. Teel Scholarship Fund & the Laura J. Pynn Scholarship Fund
 Dawson Richards, \$1,900 from the Juanita Shelor Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Macaela Richmeier, \$1,900 total from the Juanita Shelor Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund & the Teel Family Scholarship Fund
 Kira Samuel, \$1,900 from the Juanita Shelor Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Blacksburg High School
 Mercy Akanmu, \$1,800 from the June Liang Wang Scholarship Fund
 Patrick Davis, \$1,000 from the Terry Helms Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Mia Farley, \$840 from the Dana R. & Marilyn Spencer Scholarship Fund
 Norah Griggs, \$1,065 from the Allan Mandelstamm Scholarship Fund
 Nicholas Harvey, \$600 from the Dennis Stauffer Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Suzie Kim, \$1,000 from the BHS National Honor Society Legacy Scholarship Fund
 Maeve Rensberger, \$1,420 from the Auxiliary of Radford Community Hospital/CNRVMC Scholarship Fund
 Mila Santsaver-Jones, \$1,500 from the Chris Dudley Scholarship Fund
 Gabriel Syed, \$500 from the A. Phillips Meadows Leadership Fund
 Sam Woolsey, \$1,800 from the June Liang Wang Scholarship Fund
 Edric Zhang, \$1,500 from the Jim Gwazdauskas Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Christiansburg High School
 Emily Abbott, \$1,770 from the Adrienne Marie Rhudy Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Carson Ballard, \$1,500 from the Doris Huff Elliott Business Excellence Scholarship Fund
 Thaxton Henley, \$1,000 from the Eric E. Sutphin Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Hayden Kyle, \$1,000 from the VFW Post 5311 Legacy Scholarship Fund
 Taylor Rasmussen, \$2,000 from the Josephine D. Shotts Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Anna Rayne, \$1,000 from the Eric E. Sutphin Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Faith Sarver, \$1,420 from the Auxiliary of Radford Community Hospital/CNRVMC Scholarship Fund
 McKenna Spaulding, \$1,300 from the Marcus Allen Ford Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Eastern Montgomery High School:
 Logan Boone, \$700 from the Casey Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Madison Bruce, \$1,000 from the Muffo Family Scholarship Fund
 Abigail Felty, \$1,000 from the Laura J. Pynn Scholarship Fund
 Jenna Gadd, \$1,780 from the Epperly Family Fund
 Lucas Jones, \$1,018 from the Warren Lloyd Holtzman Freedom Scholarship Fund
 Madeline Mirulli, \$1,065 from the Marie Mandelstamm Scholarship Fund
 Floyd County High School:
 Avery Cantrell, \$1,000 from the Citizens Scholarship Fund
 Melanie Gallimore, \$1,000 from the Larry Turman Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Maria Garcia Diaz, \$3,000 total from the RBN Inc. Appreciation Scholarship Fund & Amber D. Lutz Memorial Scholarship Fund
 James Holt, \$1,100 from the Woodrow & Elma Turman Scholarship Fund
 Vanessa Hylton, \$2,190 from the Earl Vest & Mamie Phillips Vest Scholarship Fund
 Jessica Long, \$1,000 from the Williamsburg Consort Symphonic Band Scholarship Fund
 Andrew Martin, \$2,190 from the Earl Vest & Mamie Phillips Vest Scholarship Fund
 Carly Thompson, \$1,600 from the Mary Ann King Peters Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Hallie Williams, \$500 Evelyn Rutrough Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Victoria Wood, \$2,190 from the Earl Vest & Mamie Phillips Vest Scholarship Fund
 Narrows High School:
 Kaleah Handshoe, \$2,000 from the Josephine

D. Shotts Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Mya Robertson, \$1,000 from the Domermuth Scholarship Fund
 Virginia Bowles, \$1,420 from the Auxiliary of Radford Community Hospital/CNRVMC Scholarship Fund
 Pulaski County High School:
 Sydney Farley, \$2,000 from the Jo Ann Slate Smith Scholarship Fund
 Emilie Hall, \$2,000 from the Jo Ann Slate Smith Scholarship Fund
 Zachary Parker, \$2,000 from the Simón-Flora Grohs Scholarship Fund
 Plus, one student each from:
 Cassidy Callister, Springhouse Community School, \$1,000 from the T. Scott Eaton Scholarship Fund
 Liam Gillock, Grayson County High School, \$1,180 from the Plummer Scholarship Fund
 Hollie Fletcher, Giles High School, \$500 from the Virginia Whitaker Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Angie Lin, Radford High School, \$1,770 from the Adrienne Marie Rhudy Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Dianna White, Galax High School, \$1,180 from the Plummer Scholarship Fund
 University students:
 Bridgewater College
 Logan Douthat, \$1,420 from the Auxiliary of Radford Community Hospital/CNRVMC Scholarship Fund
 Jared Nichols, \$4,000 from the James E. & Kate H. Board Scholarship Fund
 New River Community College:
 Helen Beavers, \$1,250 from the Wings Fund
 Jaycee Chaffin, \$2,190 from the Earl Vest & Mamie Phillips Vest Scholarship Fund
 Kenzee Chaffin, \$2,190 from the Earl Vest & Mamie Phillips Vest Scholarship Fund
 Gracenne Clinger, \$1,250 from the Wings Fund
 Eliany Garcia-Bermudez, \$3,000 from the RBN Inc. Appreciation Scholarship Fund
 Shuler Williams, \$500 from the Living4Bri Scholarship Fund
 Virginia Tech:
 Madison Blake, \$2,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Ruthie Brown, \$2,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Krista Carlton, \$2,000 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Victoria Fedik, \$4,000 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Ella Fitzgerald, \$3,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Heidi Gomez, \$2,000 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Jack Hammock, \$1,950 from the Lineweaver Family Scholarship Fund
 Angelina Jannace, \$500 from the Lambda Horizon Scholarship Fund
 Alexandra Jones, \$2,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Gage Kelly, \$1,950 from the Lineweaver Family Scholarship Fund
 Suin Kim, \$2,000 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Seferina Olivo, \$4,000 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Megan Phan, \$2,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Harbalbeen Rai, \$4,000 total from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund & the Adrienne Marie Rhudy Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Morgan Ralph, \$2,500 from the VT Women's Club Scholarship Fund
 Hanna Santolla, \$1,720 from the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Plus, one each from:
 Sydney Fritz, Brown University, \$1,018 from the Warren Lloyd Holtzman Freedom Scholarship Fund
 Andrea Leng, Washington University in St. Louis, \$2,000 from the Benjamin Eiss Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Jaden Nichols, James Madison University, \$4,000 from the James E. & Kate H. Board Scholarship Fund
 Josep Ocampo, College of William and Mary, \$3,000 from the RBN Inc. Appreciation Scholarship Fund
 Cole Shepherd, Delta State University, \$1,065 from the Allan Mandelstamm Scholarship Fund
 Selna Shi, Virginia Commonwealth University, \$3,000 from the RBN Inc. Appreciation Scholarship Fund
 Brittle Williams, Radford University, \$1,065 from the Marie Mandelstamm Scholarship Fund

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Find out about a project to construct a new park and ride lot on Route 8 (West Main Street) just off Interstate 81 at exit 114 (Christiansburg). The 1.5-acre facility will be located about 0.2 mile north of the exit 114 interchange and be accessed from Route 666 (Mud Pike). The new park and ride will include approximately 80 parking spaces, a bus shelter, bike racks and lighting. Sidewalks and a crosswalk across Route 8 to tie into the existing pedestrian facilities also will be constructed.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353 1-800-FOR-ROAD, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Chris Eggleston, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153, on or prior to **May 25, 2023**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Chris Eggleston at the phone numbers listed above.

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Underwater from page 4

immersive exhibitions that highlight social and environmental awareness is a wonderful way to help people connect their actions to the effects on local flora and fauna.”

Other visual contributions to this exhibit included large-scale photographs of the bluehead chub by Todd Pusser and Ned Rose, oil-painted canvases of the minnow and its nest associates by Maurakis. Also included in the exhibition are a framed watercolor of a bluehead chub by Betts, labeled with its Latin moniker, *Nocomis leptocephalus*; nature journal pages by Matt Gentry; and a minnow embroidered on a dark navy cotton background by Emma Hultin,

another graduate student involved with bluehead chub research at Toms Creek.

In the gallery's exterior display cases are highlights of the project and include a poem by Carrie Kroehler, associate director of the Center for Communicative Science; images of the community activities presented by Marcyes; and a research newsletter submission by Brooks.

Visitors to “The Underwater Wonders of Toms Creek” exhibition can participate in a nest-building activity as part of the educational experience in the Perspective Gallery. Hundreds of brightly colored bean bags and pieces of

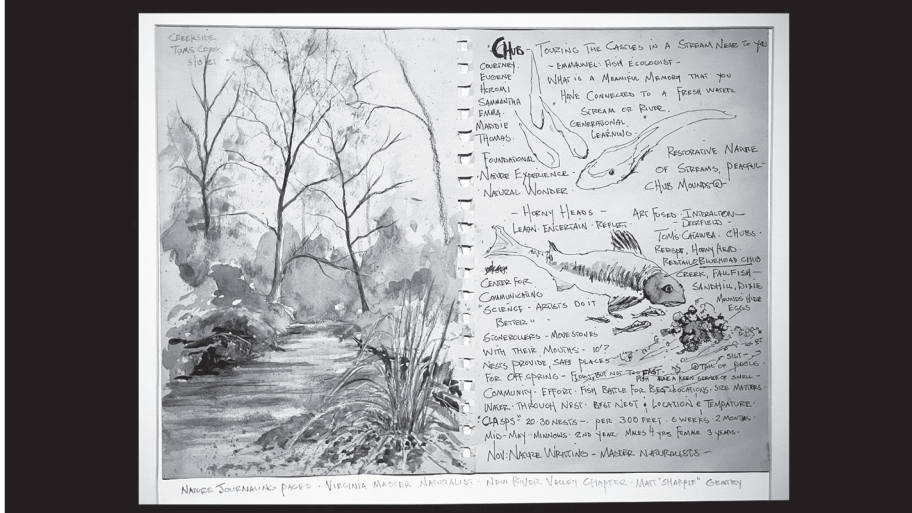
wood may be moved around the floor to resemble the pebble nests of the bluehead chub. Bustamante conceived the demonstration for Art Reach sessions to educate visitors on the nest-building process and potential dangers to consider in selecting locations.

The exhibit, located in the Perspective Gallery on the second floor of the Squires Student Center on the Blacksburg campus, is open to the public through May 10 during these hours: Sundays, 1-5 p.m., Mondays 6-9 p.m., and Tuesdays-Saturdays, noon to 9 p.m.

-Rose Carter for Virginia Tech



“The Underwater Wonders of Toms Creek” exhibit was a result of a transdisciplinary, collaborative effort that educated members of the community in conservation through art.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH
Pages from Matt Gentry's nature journal are exhibited in the Perspective Gallery alongside large-scale photographs of the bluehead chub, oil-painted canvases of the minnow and its nest associates, and team members' contributions to the visual representation of the fish and environment.

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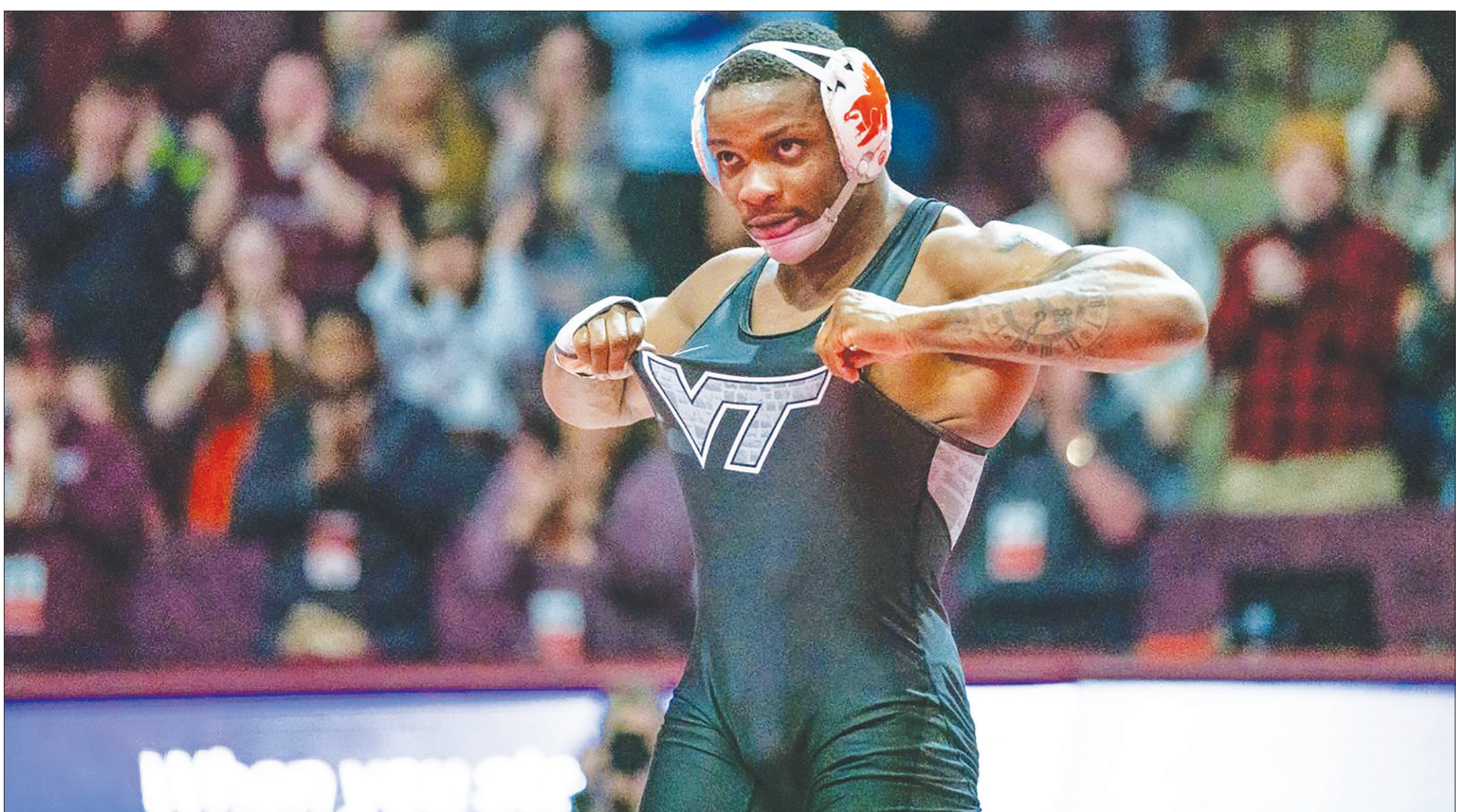
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Return of the King to the Hokie mats



FILE PHOTO

Mekhi Lewis to don orange and maroon at Virginia Tech for final year of eligibility.

Mekhi Lewis is coming back. The greatest wrestler in Virginia Tech wrestling history – and one of the most decorated athletes to ever represent the Hokies – has announced his return for his final year of eligibility for the 2023-2024 season.

With Lewis (174-pounds) returning, Tech retains a strong core of returning All-Americans alongside Eddie Ventresca (125-pounds), Sam Latona (133-pounds), Caleb Henson (149-pounds), and Bryce Andonian (157-pounds). The five paced the Hokies for third most All-America honors in the country and another top-10 finish at the 2023 NCAA Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

“Mekhi has done a tremendous amount for Virginia Tech Wrestling and I am grateful for the opportunity to spend a seventh year with him as he chases his goals,” head coach Tony Robie expressed. “In addition to being an incredible competitor on the mat, Mekhi always represents Hokies Wrestling with class and humility. We appreciate everyone that has supported Mekhi

throughout his journey and is behind him as he puts on a Virginia Tech singlet for one more season. We are ecstatic that Keith, Charlotte, Keith Jr., and Mekhi Lewis will be back for the 2023-2024 season.”

Lewis became the first national champion in program history when he defeated Penn State’s two-time defending national champion, Vincenzo Joseph, for the 165-pound title at the 2019 NCAA Championships in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After taking an Olympic redshirt in 2020 and withdrawing from the 2021 national tournament due to injury, Lewis – moving up to 174-pounds – would once again make history to become Tech’s first two-time national finalist in 2022. The Somerset, New Jersey native would place fourth at the 2023 NCAA Championships despite battling numerous injuries to become Tech’s sixth three-time All-American and the first wrestler in program history to place top-four in three appearances. Lewis will look to become the Hokies’ first four-time NCAA All-American in program history – David McFadden was the first three-time NCAA

All-American and NCWA All-American.

The only two-time ACC Wrestler of the Year awardee in Tech wrestling history, Lewis is just the eighth Hokie to win three ACC titles with a chance to join Devin Carter to become the second-ever to win four with his return next season. The national and conference champion also made history back in 2018 by becoming the first world champion in program history with his junior world title while representing the Southeast Regional Training Center and the United States at the United World Wrestling Junior World Championships in Slovakia. Lewis was the only American to win a world title that year.

In addition to his accomplishments off the mat, Lewis has had a philanthropic impact in his community – giving more than \$8,000 of his own NIL earnings as well as helping raise and contribute over \$15,000 to multiple charities in his home state of New Jersey as well as Micah’s Backpack in Blacksburg.

-Virginia Tech Athletics

Big South softball tourney in Radford

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University will host this week’s Big South softball tourney with no Highlander squad. The host school finished the season this past weekend to finish in last place in the conference. Only the top four teams qualify for the May 11-13 tournament.

Radford finished with a 5-16 conference record and 16-34 overall.

For the first time since 2019, Longwood

University is the No. 1 seed in the Big South Softball Championship.

The Lancers and Campbell tied for the regular-season championship with identical 15-5 conference records (.750 winning percentage), and Longwood earned the top seed based on its 2-1 series win over the Camels this past weekend. It is the Lancers’ sixth regular-season Big South crown, while No. 2-seed Campbell collects its third-straight title and fourth overall.

USC Upstate is the No. 3 seed following its 13-8 Big South record (.619 league winning

percentage), with Charleston Southern clinching the No. 4 and final seed based on its 11-9 conference mark (.550 winning percentage).

The 2023 Softball Championship begins Thursday, May 11 with two games scheduled, continues with three games on Friday, May 12, and concludes Saturday, May 13 with two potential Championship contests starting at 1:00pm. Every game will be broadcast on ESPN+. The Big South’s Tournament champion receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Softball Regionals.

Tech fifth seed in ACC softball tourney

Florida State clinched its 14th Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and is the No. 1 seed in the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference Softball Championship, which begins Wednesday, May 10, at Melissa Cook Softball Stadium in South Bend, Indiana.

The Seminoles earned their first top seed since 2018 after winning the regular-season championship with a 22-2 mark in conference action. Florida State is set to play its first tournament game in the quarterfinals on Thursday at 11 a.m., when it takes on the winner of Wednesday’s first-round matchup between No.

8 Virginia and No. 9 Syracuse.

The Orange and the Cavaliers will kick off the ACC Softball Championship with a 1 p.m. start on Wednesday, followed by No. 7 Notre Dame vs. No. 10 Georgia Tech at 3:30 p.m. Georgia Tech earned the last spot in the championship after Pitt swept NC State during the last weekend of play.

No. 4 Louisville will face No. 5 Virginia Tech on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in quarterfinal play. Duke earned its second consecutive No. 2 seed and will play the winner of Georgia Tech and Notre Dame on Thursday at 5 p.m. Clemson, the

No. 3 seed, is slated to play No. 6 North Carolina in the final game of the day at 7:30 p.m.

The 2023 ACC Softball Championship will continue with Friday’s semifinals at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and will conclude with Saturday’s championship game at 1 p.m.

ACC Network and ESPN2 will provide 18 hours of live coverage of the ACC Softball Championship. The first three rounds will be broadcast on ACC Network, and ESPN2 will carry the championship game, with studio breaks in between games.

-ACC Athletics

Bruins take boys, girls titles at Cosmos

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg’s Mia Littlejohn claimed first place wins in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles as the Lady Bruins rolled to the team title in this weekend’s Cosmo track meet held at William Fleming High School.

Blacksburg racked up 120 points to second

place Northside and Roanoke Catholic’s 51 points.

Sarah Deutsch added to the individual wins for the Bruins in the pole vault and would serve as leg of the winning 4-by-400 meter relay win.

The Blacksburg boys’ team also took the 2023 Cosmo title with 75 points in a close meet with William Byrd second with 64. Pulaski and Franklin County finished tied for third with 52 points.

Blacksburg’s Will Harrison won the boys 110-meter hurdles (14.74 seconds) and 300 hurdles (39.71), while teammates Ben Hager and Daniel Bandera won the 400-meter dash (50.72) and 800 dash (2:01.75).

Auburn’s Kasey Rosebaum won the girls’ 3,200 meter race with a 11:56.21 time. On the boys’ side of the track, Drew Royal brought home first place in the high jump while Talan Mower was first in the pole vault.

Send Community Events to aboyd@ourvalley.org

Outdoor report: Experts examine Zombie deer disease

A white-tailed deer afflicted with chronic wasting disease — also frequently referred to as “zombie deer disease” — will appear abnormally thin, move sluggishly, and salivate excessively. There is no cure: chronic wasting disease (CWD) is contagious and always fatal, and it has been detected with increasing frequency in Virginia and other states, raising concerns about effects on the deer population.

Virginia Tech professor and wildlife health expert Luis Escobar will be leading a study to determine the risk of CWD transmission in Virginia. This past week, he answered questions about the disease, what the study will do and how it is being funded.

Q: Where has chronic wasting disease been detected?

“In North America, species known to be susceptible to natural infection include elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, moose, and the red deer, which is not native to the continent. All of these are mammals in the deer family, or cervids. In the U.S., chronic

wasting has been detected in free-ranging cervids in 29 states. In Virginia, CWD has been detected in white-tailed deer in the north and southwest areas of the commonwealth.”

Q: How does CWD spread and what are the symptoms?

“CWD is caused by infectious proteins causing fatal neurodegenerative diseases. Infected deer can transmit the pathogen by direct contact — for example, through saliva — or by contaminating the environment. As examples, infected feces or urine or an infected carcass can contaminate grass. Transmission can occur before symptoms appear, as early as six months after the infection. The infection causes hyperexcitability, or increased activity, in the early stages. Advanced symptoms include severe loss of weight, excessive salivation, behavioral changes such as decreased activity, and weakness followed by death.”

Q: How severe is the threat to the white-tailed deer population?

“Some studies suggest a large potential threat to wildlife conservation due to deer mortality

and effects on genetic diversity in populations affected by CWD. Efforts to prevent spread of the disease include regular culling, which could impact deer abundance in the affected regions but seems to be effective.”

Q: What research will your team conduct into the spread of chronic wasting disease?

“Thanks in part to a \$30,000 gift from Virginia Hound Heritage, our team, which includes Virginia Tech professor of deer ecology and animal movement Brett Jesmer, will be able to undertake an extensive investigation into CWD transmission risk across Virginia. The goal of this project is to estimate the paths, direction, and extent of future CWD spread in white-tailed deer. The team will use molecular tools to generate information of likely spread of the disease in unprecedented detail in Virginia.”

Q: Can humans or pets get CWD?

“To date, CWD only has been found in white-tailed deer and other cervids.”

-Luis Escobar for Virginia Tech

Motor Mile mourns flag man's passing

Motor Mile Speedway has announced the loss of its beloved flagman BJ Bruce.

In a Facebook post, a Motor Mile statement said the 34-year-old “BJ was often a contributor to our prayer in the driver’s meetings, he was a constant source of inspiration to all who knew him. BJ’s strength and dedication to our lord

Jesus Christ will bring all of us comfort in his passing.”

The Ennice, North Carolina, resident who had been one of several longtime “flag wavers” at the paved oval, passed away on May 5. He was a pastor at Southside Church of Christ in Galax, a board member for the Virginia Christian Camp

and an Assistant Troop Leader with the Cub Scout Troop Pack #810 in Woodlawn.

In addition to his parents, BJ is survived by his wife of 11 years, Amanda Sexton Bruce of the home; two children: Forrest Langdon Bruce V and Jaxon Carter Bruce both of the home.

Funeral services were held Sunday in Ennice.

Radford Police requests public's help locating missing person

RADFORD - The Radford City Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in locating 32-year-old Samantha Jo Pack, of Radford.

Her family last heard from her on

May 6, 2023. She is described as a black female, 5 feet 3 inches tall weighing 165 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

Pack does not have a vehicle. If you have seen Samantha or have any information

on her whereabouts, please contact the Radford Police Department at (540) 731-3624 or your local police or sheriff's department.

-Submitted by the City of Radford



Samantha Pack, 32, is missing.

Contact the Radford PD at (540) 731-3624



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD Samantha Pack's family last heard from her on May 6.

visit www.ourvalley.org

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