



Kim Bowman serves as Director of The Agape Center Food Pantry of the New River Valley.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM BOWMAN

The Agape Center's new school location will provide a 'Building for a Better Future' for the region's citizens.

Blacksburg Town Council sets public hearing to establish green burials at Westview Cemetery

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

A public hearing will be held on August 8, 2023, for Ordinance 2016, to amend the Westview Cemetery Rules and Regulations in establishing green burials.

Green burials, according to the agenda provided by Blacksburg Town Council at www.blacksburg.gov, will meet a set of guidelines that will provide for only biodegradable materials to be used in the preparation, and burial, of an individual as approved by the Green Burial Council.

Proposed prices to purchase single, double, or multiple green burial sites for in-town Blacksburg residents and for out-of-town individuals or families are included in the amended proposal. An exhibit showing placement of the green burial sites may also be found in the agenda.

Additional public hearings set for August 8, 2023, by the Blacksburg Town Council include a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and ordinances 2025 and 2029.

CUP 23-0003 is a permit request for hotel use and additional height in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District at 501 South Main Street.

Ordinance 2025 involves the vacating of a

See **Green Burials**, page 2

Agape Center NRV is working to raise funds for their new home

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Agape Center NRV is a non-profit, 100% volunteer-based organization that provides essential food, clothing, and other necessities to individuals and families in the local area.

Now, they are also raising funds for renovations of their new location.

The center moved into their warehouse in October of last year, but they will not be in their new location at the former site of the Weller Baker School in Christiansburg until they are finished with renovations, which are just now getting underway.

A large silent auction will be held at Sinkland Farms on July 23 noon to 7 p.m. to raise funds for The Agape Center. Gearheads for a Cause will be sponsoring a car show, and there will be live music, food trucks and vendors. The mayor, along with Sinkland Farms' owner Susan Sink, will be among the judges for the car show.

The money will provide for the mentoring suites for the center where there will be seven

new suites.

This event will be the last day of the Sunflower Festival at Sinkland Farms. Sink has donated a night in the honeymoon suite at Sinkland Farms as a prize.

The mentoring programs are also an important component of the services provided by The Agape Center, and the new school will allow more space to conduct and build strong relationships with clients.

"Some clients maybe just need some help. They might have not ever had the support they needed," Director of the New River Valley Agape Center, Kim Bowman said.

One training program the center offers is called Getting Ahead and will select clients that would most benefit from the mentoring and resources it provides and the tools they can use to move forward in a positive way with their lives.

"Agape is the Greek work for unconditional love," Bowman said. "Some clients are just in situations that they cannot overcome. They may be disabled or a senior citizen on a fixed income

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We Are All of the Above's free backpack event coming July 23



We Are All of the Above volunteers (left to right) Jayla Lewis, Carmen Lewis, Christiana Carter, Aliyah Ba, Sean Southall, Mark Cole, Carol Johnson, and Kasmira Carroll.

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Organizers and volunteers of We Are All of the Above are gathering again this year at Pulaski's Randolph Park on July 23, 3-5 p.m. to provide a free backpack giveaway to local school-age children in need.

Christiana Carter, President of the organization, founded the group along with several close friends. Their goal is to provide safe spaces for the local youth with a focus on at-risk and LGBTQIA individuals. Through Carter, and her husband and friends' interactions with local youth, she said it is evident the amount of need that kids are experiencing in our communities.

"The founders of our group are from every different background and are super diverse. We are not all on the same page, but we have come together to show that we can all come together regardless of our backgrounds," Carter said. "We want to say everybody is enough and you are accepted."

The group started around Covid in 2020 with a backpack giveaway. They just ask that you bring your child with you, and they give out supplies until they run out. Last year they added hygiene products and Roanoke Pride donated socks as well.

"We had people volunteer to hand out hotdogs and bagged lunches," Carter said. "We had around 250 people last year from around 50 people before. It was like Black Friday."

Although the event and organization is based in Pulaski, they have had several come from neighboring communities and is open to any children in need.

"The backpack is K-12 for now, and we are strictly funded through donations, but would like to extend this to college students," Carter said. "A lot of Christmas events are run like contests, a deserving student, or a deserving family. We want to remove the stigma of it being charity so people will feel more comfortable."

There is a website and social media that people can go to for more information. Amazon Wish List will help people who may not be local and still want to donate. If someone has items for backpacks they wish to donate,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTIANA CARTER

Backpacks are lined up for children to choose from as they prepare for a new school year.

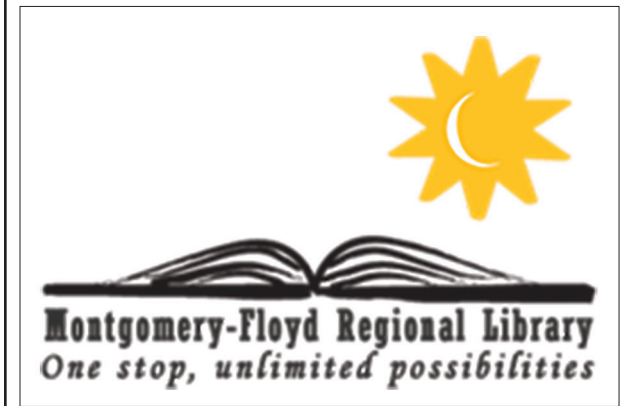
volunteers with the organization can meet locally to pick them up. Their website also provides additional information at www.wearealltheaboveswa.com, and there is a section if you want to donate, give monetarily, or give your time. Contact information is available on the website as well.

This year the supplies will be prepacked but the children can still pick out a backpack of their choosing. Additionally, they will have a photo station this year. People take pictures at the event, children and families eat together and it is just a special day, Carter said.

"My vision is to create a free store so children can pick out clothes shoes, etc.," she said. "That is our end-goal of our non-profit, to have a brick-and-mortar location."

They also envision doing resume classes for older students and college students as well to meet the needs of individuals leaving the support that the school environment provides.

All are welcome to attend and should bring their children and enjoy the community event.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Author talk at Meadowbrook Public Library features Julia Martin Dare

SHAWSVILLE - The Meadowbrook Public Library invites book enthusiasts and romance lovers to an author talk featuring Julia Martin Dare, the talented author of "The Sheriff's Star," the first installment in her captivating "Guard My Heart" series.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 22 at 1 p.m. and promises an afternoon filled with intrigue, romance, and the magic of storytelling.

"The Sheriff's Star" follows the extraordinary journey of Stacy, a world-famous pop star seeking refuge in the peaceful town of Whirlwind. Amidst her break, Stacy's life takes a perilous turn when she becomes the target of a relentless stalker. In this heart-pounding tale, readers are introduced to John, the courageous Sheriff who witnesses Stacy's near-death encounter. Determined to keep her safe, John finds himself facing a ruthless killer who stops at nothing to end their lives. As the stakes rise, Stacy's impending return to her pop-star persona clashes with John's unwavering dedication to protecting their small town. The couple finds themselves torn between love and duty. Can they find a way to be together forever? And will they triumph against the relentless pursuer?

Julia Martin Dare is an author who embarked on her writing journey later in life. Fueled by her passion for books and words, she found solace in writing poetry during her school years. Despite various life commitments, including military service, raising children, and work, Dare never let go of her dream to write a book. Following a battle with depression, she turned to writing as a creative outlet and a means of contribution. Now, well beyond her 55th birthday, Dare has published her first book, "The Sheriff's Star," marking the beginning of her enthralling "Guard My Heart" series. Drawing inspiration from the captivating characters she creates, Dare's stories promise a happily ever after, every time.

During the author talk, Julia Martin Dare will share her personal journey as an aspiring writer and shed light on her creative process. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights into the creative process and learn more about the characters that have captivated her readers.

Copies of the book will be available for sale at the event, and the author will be signing copies after her talk. This event is open to all and free of charge.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 22 at 1 p.m. and join us at the Meadowbrook Public Library, located at 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville. For further information, please contact: Cindy Minnick, cminnick@mfrl.org or call the library at (540) 268-1964.

-Submitted by Meadowbrook Public Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 19:

Mingle at the Market
Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Radford Photo Club
At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7:30 p.m. Aileen Fletcher, professional photographer and retired New River Community College teacher of photography, will present on Scenery Photography, and will give participants an assignment for the August meeting.

Thursday, July 20:

Soap Bubble Circus
At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. The Soap Bubble Circus is a one-of-a-kind, amazing and educational experience – Steve is the Ringmaster and the Bubbles are the performers. Mixing comedy, music, and interactive bubble-magic, Steve engages and delights audiences of all ages.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. Mr. Sam Winkler, aka "President Jefferson Davis" will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series
The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. All of the talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. July 20: Salamanders (Frank Taylor, Nature at Your Door).

Teen Reading with Dave & Ollie
At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Teens are invited to come and listen to Dave read a short story or a passage from a novel while also visiting with Saint Francis Library Dog, Oliver.

Saturday, July 22:

Radford Summer Concert series
Performance by the Tee Tones- Doowop/ Motown/ Soul on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion. Hosted by the Radford Visitor's and Welcome Center. Food trucks on-site and alcoholic beverages will be provided by the Radford Chamber of Commerce for purchase. The gate opens at 6 p.m., and the concert

begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. Children under 12 are free. Glencoe Mansion is located at 600 Unruh Dr., Radford.

Soap Bubble Circus
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Get bubbly at the library! Guinness World Record-winning bubbles (and the Bubble Artist behind them) will be here to put on an incredible, STEM-based soap bubble circus event. These bubbles have even been featured in Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Come for the bubbles, stay for the hilarious circus show!

Henna: The Science and Culture of a Natural Art Form
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Leah Ican, licensed and insured local Henna artist will be discussing the science, history, and culture of henna. Join us to learn more about this beautiful artwork.

Monday, July 24:

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, July 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
Town Council will not meet today. The council normally 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.

Agape Center NRV

from page 1

and raising grandchildren. They cannot change their income status, so the monthly assistance they are provided helps them.”

The Agape Center also has a 12-step program called Celebrate Recovery, which is an outreach program.

“We also see so much brokenness with teenagers, and suicide rates and depression have increased,” Bowman said, adding they are seeking volunteers to help with this program. “We need people who love youth and would like to feed into the youth in our area for that program as well.”

The Agape Center has had a drive-through pantry since the pandemic, but prior to that, they had a choice pantry.

“It has not made sense to do that since Covid so the things are pre-packed,” Bowman said.

The center is still largely unknown to the general public, but, according to Bowman, has grown 78% in clientele and are still going up every week.

“We are still not up to pre-covid numbers, but it is still climbing,” Bowman said. “Every month we are having about 30 new families, and that is not counting all the other pantries.”

Volunteers are always welcome as the organization is run strictly by the generosity of

community members' time and passion to help others.

Debra Macon serves the center as the Volunteer Coordinator, and right now the center is wanting to meet specific volunteer needs. One position is for clerical help, which involves checking people in and out and taking phone calls. Skilled labor construction help would also be highly valued right now. The first two phases of building are in right now and are estimated at about \$350,000, and they are hoping to decrease that amount as much as possible with volunteerism.

The Center has an average of 55 volunteers every day but also provides a nice sense of community for the volunteers.

Currently, the Center offers food, diapers, clothing, and other necessities, but eventually will have a furniture store. The Agape Center also offers a gift center for Christmas and for birthdays. Currently, 15 churches and some local businesses will adopt the children to buy specifically what the family has requested for gifts.

“We try to create a nice holiday environment for them,” Bowman said.

The Center is also hoping to have a living nativity scene that they can drive through when

On-going:

Hydrant Flushing Work
The Town of Blacksburg will continue to flush fire hydrants in the northwest section of Town during the month of July. Hydrant flushing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the flushing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

Market Square Jam
Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

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
Held 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.

Registration open for Potter in the Park race
Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! Have you signed up for the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park Race yet? It's time to venture out from the cupboard under the stairs, get your wizard robes ready, and join us for this annual family-fun event on Saturday, August 26 at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.lvnrv.org. Also, if you know a local business or individual who would like to be a sponsor, please send them our way! From door prizes to sponsorships, we rely on our supporters to make this a truly impactful and entertaining event.

Green Burials

from page 1

waterline easement on land located at 615 Southgate Drive. According to the ordinance, as stated in the agenda, the mayor may authorize a quit deed claim that will release interest of this easement to Virginia Tech University. An exhibit of the easement may also be found in the agenda

Ordinance 2029 will be open to a public hearing on amending Town Code Sections 7-100, 7-103, 7-104, 7-105, 7-108 and

7-109 in relation to the Westview Cemetery. The code sections pertain to the town manager's overseeing of cemetery records, burial regulations in internment, along with the maintenance and caretaking of the cemetery's burial sites and grounds.

Also during the regular town council meeting, Council approved their regular public meetings to be on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month, beginning at

6:30 pm. Work sessions for the Council will be held at 11:00 am on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

In another action taken by the council members, an office space located at 200 Clay Street, S.W., formally known as the prior police station, will be leased for one year to the Montgomery County Tourism Development Council. This lease will retrospectively take effect as of July 1, 2023 per the Council's

agenda.

Ordinance 2027 was also approved unanimously by Council to essentially rollover funds in the amount of “\$242,897 in previously appropriated CDBG Entitlement Funds from the 2021 Action Plan to the 2022 Action Plan in the CDBG Entitlement Fund, and by reappropriating \$341,376 in previously appropriated HOME Consortium Funds to the HOME Consortium Fund, with revenue

they receive their gifts.

The Agape Center is located at 1175 Cambria St. in Christiansburg and is open the first through the fourth Fridays of the month from 12- 4 p.m. and second and fourth Wednesdays, 12- 4 p.m. by appointment. They are closed on the fifth Fridays of the month. Individuals can walk in on their first visit but will need an appointment after that. Proof of income is not required on the first visit but interested parties should bring valid identification.

If you are interested in contacting the center as a client or as a volunteer information can be found on their website at www.agapecenternr.org or by calling 540-251-5646. Volunteers may also reach out to Debra Macon at debramacon@agapecenternr.org.

Food drives are something the Center always welcomes as well. They receive a lot of perishable items and share with Plenty and sometimes with Eagles Nest and the Salvation Army. Canned and boxed goods are things they can keep on the shelves.

The Chamber of Commerce can be used as a drop-off site if people want to donate canned goods.

unanimously by Council is Ordinance 2028 is to amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to accept and appropriate \$255,000 of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Grant Funds to the General Fund.

“These funds will be used to purchase various pieces of technical police equipment” Verniel said. “The funds are required to be expended by June 30 of 2024, but I think they will be expended well before that time.”

The Town Council will not meet for work session on July 18 or for a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

game time *AT THE SUPERBOWL*

Fall Leagues Schedule 2023
Many Leagues Begin Middle of August

LEAGUE SCHEDULE
Monday Moose (Meeting August 14th)
Tuesday Open (Begins August 15th)
Up and At 'EM Senior League (Meeting Aug. 9th)

Call 540-382-5525 for information about all leagues

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

LYNCHBURG HILLCATS VS SALEM RED SOX

JULY 25TH 7:05PM
BARK IN THE PARK - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JULY 26TH 7:05PM
GAME 2 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JULY 27TH 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JULY 28TH 7:05PM
CHRISTMAS EVE IN JULY - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JULY 29TH 6:05PM
CHRISTMAS IN JULY - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JULY 30TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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OBITUARIES

Callahan, Dixie Dudley

Dixie Dudley Callahan, 75, passed away Thursday, July 13, 2023, at her home in Radford.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Dudley; mother and stepfather, Ruby and Kinky Ritter; and brothers, Louie and Larry Ritter.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy Callahan; sons, Neil



Dishon and Jeff Dishon (Julie); grandchildren, Ami Alderman, Kristin Dishon, Jeffery Dishon, Jr., and Benjamin Dishon; five great grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private. The Callahan family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Lawrence, Opal Ella Bain Shaffer

Opal Ella Bain Shaffer Lawrence, of Radford, went to her heavenly home on July 14, 2023. Opal was 88 years old.

Opal loved life and her family was the center of her life. She loved getting the family together at the old home place to talk about the days of growing up there. To her family she was known as Aunt Tootie. She had a very contagious laugh and a heart of gold. Opal was always there to help others when she was able. In her later years, you could find her sitting on her front porch enjoying the fresh air and watching the birds. She would always

welcome a conversation. Aunt Tootie will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in



death by two sons, Jay and Dana Shaffer; her parents, LeRoy Bain Sr. and Myrtle Shelburne Bain; siblings,

Noah Bain, Forest Bain, LeRoy Bain Jr., Loraine Bain Ratcliff, Grover Lee Bain Sr., and Bobby Bain.

Survivors include a son, Bruce Stephen Shaffer (Patricia) of Radford; grandchildren, Dana, Ben, Terra, David, and Amber; five great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; daughter-in-law, Lorie Shaffer; and a special caregiver, Linda Carroll.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023, at the Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

The Lawrence family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Grant, Ph.D., John Wallace

John Wallace Grant, Ph.D., known to his friends and colleagues as "Wally," was born in Weston, W.Va., in May of 1942 and died in the New River Valley on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 81 years of age after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his widow, Joy Grant; his brother Richard Grant; his adult sons, Stephen, David, and John; his daughters-in-law, Alicia Kratzer, Sara Poorsattar, and Stephanie Thornton-Grant; and his grandchildren, Mathilda, Walker, Angus, and Azadeh Grant.

The oldest son of John Grant, a chemist with the American Water Company, and Grace Grant, an administrator with the Columbia Gas Company, Wally Grant grew up in Charleston, W.Va., on the banks of the Kanawha River as the oldest of two brothers. When his father passed away suddenly while Wally was in high school he shouldered the additional responsibility with strength, working at the Union Carbide process plant as an engineer as he took his undergraduate coursework at the West Virginia Institute of Technology in Montgomery. The opportunity to help build a state-of-the-art amines production facility for Union Carbide led him to Louisiana, where he met the woman who would be his wife for over 50 years, Joy Starring Grant.

He had a lifetime love of science and never stopped learning or researching. Wally graduated with his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University in 1973 and then worked as a research scientist for

the Dupont Corporation until he joined the faculty of Virginia Tech's Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics in 1981 where he taught for over 30 years. Grant was instrumental in founding the School of Biomedical Engineering at Virginia Tech, serving in the roles of director and later department head until 2009. Grant was a dedicated educator, his teaching ranging from freshmen fundamentals in engineering up to a generation of PhDs conducting research that pushed the boundaries



of science. He was twice awarded a Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the college as well as the Frank J. Maher Award for Excellence in Engineering Education and was appointed the first Kevin P. Granata Faculty Fellow in 2010.

Wally Grant had a lifetime commitment to the scouting movement, working with the Boy Scouts of America as the Scoutmaster of Troop 152 at United Methodist in Blacksburg for twenty years. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow and was awarded the Wood Badge, one of the highest awards for an adult leader in Scouts. His selfless work in the Scouts developed leadership skills and a love of the outdoors

in an entire generation of young men in Blacksburg.

To the very core of his being, Wally Grant was an engineer. There was no machine he could not fix, no system he could not understand, from cars to blood centrifuges, to radio astronomy. His intellectual curiosity was never satisfied. He had an innate understanding of the physical world and its dynamics, which was cultivated in a lifetime of scientific research. His early work was in the fluid dynamics of human blood flow. He led a US Navy research program into pilot disorientation at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. His lab at Virginia Tech drove groundbreaking research into the function of the vestibular system, the world expert on the mechanical operation of the gravity-sensing part of the inner ear that allows all animals, including humans, to balance in space.

He was a loving husband, a dedicated father, and a patient, doting, delighted grandfather. He was a world-class small water fly fisherman of the dry fly, the highest art of the craft he practiced his entire life. A quiet man, he expressed his love through acts of service. He was good to have with you in a tough spot, an optimist, a problem solver, and a source of strength to those around him. His love of life, his intellect, and his quiet dignity will be profoundly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his name to the Blue Ridge Council of the Boys Scouts of America. A memorial service in his name will be announced and held in a few weeks.

Duncan, Gerald W.

Gerald W. Duncan wrote the last page in his earthly journal on July 10, 2023, after challenging Alzheimer's and its callousness for three plus years.

Gerald was born April 4, 1945, the only son of the late V. Stanley and Mildred Duncan of Craig County and the younger brother of the late Jane Burner of Staunton.

Gerald received his bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and later a Master's of Business Administration from Radford University. He began his career in 1967 as a software developer with RDAISA, Department of the Army. He was the recipient of many awards during his 35 years and was always humbled at being recognized for his services. His second career began in 2000, when he ran and was successfully elected as Treasurer of Giles County. He immediately began designing software to enhance and expedite billing and collection services. His tenacity to make the Giles office the very best it could be was recognized when he was elected Treasurer of the Year for the State of Virginia. He loved serving the people of Giles County and maintained an open-door policy demanding everyone be treated equally and with dignity.



the Roger M. Latham Sportsman's Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by chapter volunteers who donate their personal time, energy and money to conservation and management of the American wild turkey. Only persons making significant contributions to the betterment of the wild turkey are eligible.

His proudest accomplishment was being a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is survived

by his wife, Ruth Duncan, of Blacksburg, his oldest son, Troy Duncan, and wife, Heather, of New Castle, his youngest son, Mark Duncan, and wife, Eva, of Catawba, his only daughter, Margee Sisson, and husband, Dougie, of Shawsville; grandchildren Haley Chandler of Clearfield, Utah, Hagan Chandler and wife, Kierston, of Riner, Tanner Duncan of Richmond, Andrew Duncan of New Castle, Elijah Duncan of Catawba and Summer Norwood of Shawsville; great grandson Myles Chandler of Riner and great granddaughter Everly Chandler of Riner.

A man of unwavering determination and kindness, there was not a person or cause he wouldn't help if there was a need and no obstacle he could not or did not overcome. A celebration of life was held Friday, July 14 at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. Visitation was followed by a memorial service in the McCoy Funeral Home chapel. A great man is one who leaves others at a loss after he has gone. What a truly remarkable person, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association @ <https://act.alz.org>.

Jackson, James Sheridan

James Sheridan "Sherry" Jackson was a cowboy from the wild of Indian Creek, Chesapeake.

With the fire of his father, Papa Don Vernon, and the heart of his mother, Mama Jeanne McCrary, he lived his life with intention. Stubborn as hell but just as soft, he was a force holding so much strength and wielding so much love.

He was the best Dad to his six children and Papa to his five grandchildren. For 40 years, he had his best friend, wife, and love of his life by his side. Whether sitting by the water together or making each other laugh, Jackie and Sherry had the kind of love that never faltered and will continue to be felt for generations to come.

He was a man of many talents and accomplishments, but if you asked him, his strength was his pride and joy. Jim placed second in the 1989 AAU Hampton Roads Master 40 Division and second in the 1989 Virginia Beach Open Bodybuilding Champions Masters Over 35 Short Class. It's said at one point in his life he was as wide as he was short from powerlifting. His strength would carry over to his eldest sons who would become Great Bridge wrestling state champions in 1986, 1987, and 1988, and a generation later, his grandson would earn the same honor in 2015.

When he wasn't lifting weights, he would exercise his mind. Jim was an inventor with a creative flair who worked with what

he had, whether it was old tools, rocks, or driftwood. He inspired his children and grandchildren to pursue careers and talents involving art, music, writing, gardening, and product development. He taught his family that minds are powerful tools and that you can do anything with determination and willpower.

For those who had the pleasure to really know



Sherry, his humor was dry, quick, and effortless. He could tango with words at any time but could also dance just as light on his feet if the music was right. He was gentle and remained an animal lover his entire life. You could always find a dog or cat by his side... other days it might be a rabbit or chicken. He loved them all, but he'll be missed most by his beloved 15-year old cat, Lex. To him, pets are always family.

Sherry is survived by his wife, Jackie (with Lex, Giles, Billy Bones, Whiskey, Sylvie Roo); his children: Jon, Jody (Wags), Jarred (Mogget, Gwen), Jilli Mac (Walnut, Porter), Jazz & her

wife, Issy (Finn, Ruby, Sasquatch, Velvet Jack); his grandchildren: Jordan (Alfred), Jamie, Joby, Stryder (Sadie), Kolby; his great granddaughter, Melanie; his sisters: Carolee, Buttons, and Tinker; his brothers, Mark and Don; his nephews: Kenneth, Jacob, Benjamin, Matt, Josh, Mark Jr., Robbie, Don Jr., and Ben; and his nieces: Kathryn, Ashley, Kelly, Alexandra, Jenny, Nicole, and Carrie. He loved them all dearly, but now is the time to be reunited with his son, Joe Mac.

Sherry had been so many titles – husband, son, dad, papa, brother, uncle, coach, teacher, rock. He accepted everyone for who they were but wasn't afraid to pass on his own clever and quirky wisdoms. A light for his family that never went out and a strength that never wavered, he dared to be soft to the ones he loved. His family is full of love and gratitude for a life well lived. Sherry will be missed, but like a true cowboy, he's on to his next big adventure.

Celebrations of his life will be held at later dates.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in care to Radford Animal Shelter: Adele Katrovitz, Radford Animal Shelter, 20 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. Adopt a dog, cat, or rabbit while you're at it — it's what Sherry would have wanted.

The Jackson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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Obituaries from page 3

Light, Nancy Ratcliffe

Nancy Ratcliffe Light, 83, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Banford Jr. and Edna Walker Ratcliffe; her brother, Robert "Bobby" III; and sisters, Barbara Blankenship and Joyce Ann Ratcliffe.

She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Clarence Wesley Light; son and daughter-in-law, Bryan Light (Marlana); daughters and son-in-law, Brenda Kesling, Patty Huff, and Pam Howard (Tony); grandchildren, Michael

Kesling, Jr., Derek Kesling, Allison Blose (Ryan), Holly Howard,



Ashlea Walker (Brandon), Lisa Huff, Luke Huff, Marybeth Huff, and

Ryan Dean; eight great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 5 p.m. with Pastor Chris Faith officiating. Interment will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery in Dublin.

The Light family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Pugh, Anthea Jean Goodridge

Anthea Jean Goodridge Pugh, 88, passed away at her home in Radford on July 13, 2023, with her family attending to her care in her final days.

The Pugh family is grateful to Intrepid Hospice and Dr. Charles Judy whose attentive care allowed Anthea to stay in her home for her last months.

Anthea was born in Plainfield, Vt., and attended Johnson State College before marrying Albert Pugh and moving to New Mexico in 1954. The couple lived in several places in the U.S. as Al pursued his Ed.D. and held various teaching jobs. Along the way they raised their family of three children. The couple settled in Radford in 1968 where Al was a professor at Radford University. Al preceded Anthea in death in 1997, after 44 years of marriage.

Anthea was active in Grace Episcopal Church in Radford where she served on the Altar Guild for 35 years. Anthea was a member of the Ruritan Road Ruritan Club and was a Tom Downing Fellow. She was honored to be a Ruritan Forever recipient.

Anthea was a fan of crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, and reading all types of books. In the last year she read David Copperfield by Charles Dickens and then Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver.

Anthea was deeply interested in current events and local and national news. She took pleasure in everyone she met, quickly learning about their lives and engaging them in conversation. As a result, she enjoyed many special friendships over the years and she appreciated spending time with the people she loved, whether they were family or friends.

Anthea was an avid

sports fan. She played basketball in high school and college. She especially liked following the Virginia Tech Hokies and PGA golf.

Anthea was a meticulous seamstress and knitter. Each of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have an afghan Anthea made for them. Cooking for her family brought Anthea joy and she was known as the "Pie Lady" - famous for her beautiful pies. Anthea was devoted to her pets over the years, particularly her



springer spaniel, Toby, and most recently her terrier, Phinneas, both of whom have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

In addition to her husband, Anthea was preceded in death by her parents Beatrice Spencer Goodridge and Euri Gilbert Goodridge. She was also preceded in death by all her siblings and their spouses: Donly Goodridge (Avis), Barbara Goodridge King (Ernest), Basil Goodridge (Ruth), and Carroll Goodridge (Donna), and a niece Carol Goodridge Grondin.

She is survived by her three children: Christy Pugh, Radford; Spencer Pugh (Beverly), West Chester, Ohio; and Leslie Pugh McNiece, Clemmons, N.C.

She is survived by six grandchildren: Amanda Newberry Clausen (Marcus), Laura Pugh Wallace (Blair), Gavin Pugh (Elizabeth),

Jennifer Pugh Howell (Joshua), Matthew McNiece, and Hannah McNiece. Five great-grandchildren survive her: Gabriella Clausen, Russell Wallace, Penelope Wallace, Ryan Pugh, and Raymond Howell.

Anthea is survived by treasured nieces and nephews: Jean Bezio (Charlie), Susan Richardson (Jim), Donly Goodridge, Gilbert Goodridge (Kay), Kath Matthews (Donald), Kevin Goodridge (Rosemary), Lonna White (Bob), Steven Goodridge (Linda), Barbara Calvert, Mari Miller (Scott), Julee Sealar (Don), and Alice Goodridge-Schramm (David), and a nephew-in-law Michael Grondin. Many cherished great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and great-great nephews also survive her including her namesake Anthea.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 29 at 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street, Radford, with the Rev. William Yagel officiating. He will be assisted by the Rev. Jamie L'Enfant Edwards from St. Clements Episcopal Church (N.C.). Visitation will be at the church on Friday, July 28, 6 - 8 p.m. Interment will take place later in Eaton Cemetery in Marshfield, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street, Radford, VA 24141 earmarked for the Altar Guild; to the Ruritan Road Club Educational Fund c/o Ruritan National Foundation, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084; or to an animal rescue charity of the donor's choice.

The Pugh family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Wright, Donna Gail

With great sadness we announce that our loving, caring mother, Donna Gail Wright gained her wings on July 9, 2023.

We are grateful that she was able to go peacefully in her own home where she resided in Christiansburg.

Our beloved mother was born in Gary, Ind. on July 23, 1952. Her father was the late Robert



Massey of Jackson, Miss. and mother, Maria (Jim) Botta of Lucedale, Miss. Donna attended and graduated Scott Central High School in Forrest, Miss. in 1970.

Our loving, caring, outgoing mother was always a hard and dependable employee in many different fields. She started her career in New York Life of Memphis, Tenn. and then worked for Kroger, Lewis Gale Hospital, and Heritage Hall, and ended her career with her loving and supportive family at Arby's in Christiansburg.

Donna loved and cherished many friends and family along her way; our two special friends, Kathy Donovan and Yvette Martin, truly helped with watching out for Donna.

She loved to decorate, garden, watch sports, and we can't forget her love for shopping. Now, as our guardian angel, she will be watching over her two daughters, Brandi (Makyza) Ramsey in Blacksburg, and Deanna Mattews in Bassfield, Miss. She definitely will be by her grandchildren's sides daily, her special little bud Jayseon Lewis in Blacksburg, and Josh and Jessica Temple with three great-grandchildren all out of Florence, Miss.

One thing for sure, two things for certain, she will always have memories and many roles in different lives and places. Always loved and will never be forgotten. Fly High Darlin! All day service event is set for July 22, 2023 at Nellie's Cave Park in Blacksburg.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

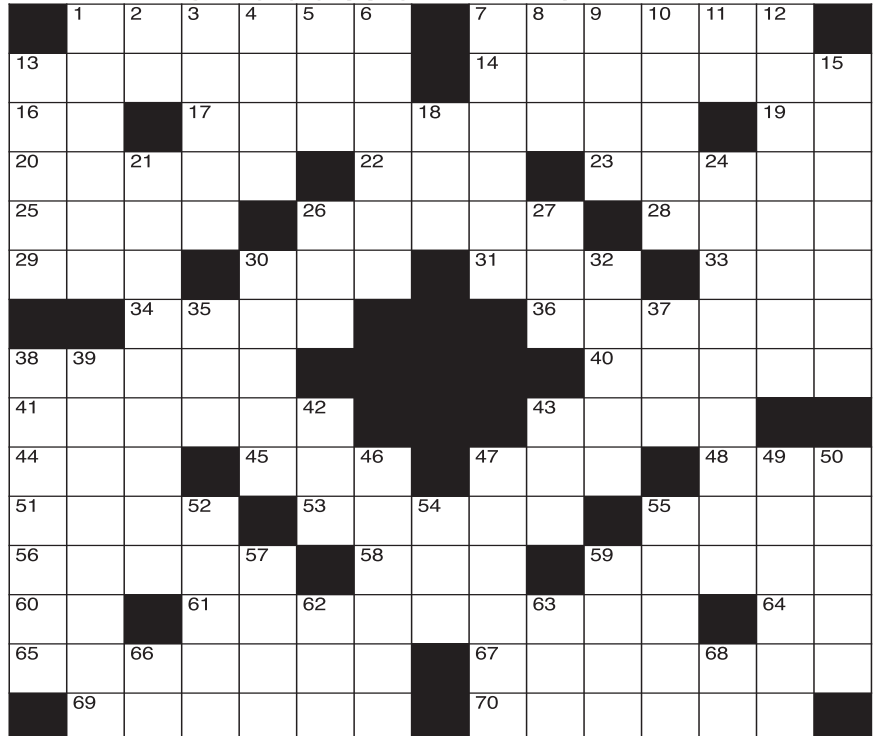
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

CHS lineman's recruitment heating up

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The recruitment of Christiansburg High School offensive lineman Carter Stallard is starting to heat up. The rising junior is listed at 6-7, 305, meaning his size has caught the attention of lots of college coaches.

So far, he has collected 10 offers including Virginia Tech, West Virginia, Maryland, UVA, Marshall, Buffalo, Charlotte, Florida International and Duke.

He and his family just returned from a visit to the University of Alabama with several other Southeastern Conference schools expressing interest. Other visits have included South Carolina with Shane Beamer.

Stallard's father, James, said the visits and recruitments have been interesting for the family as a whole.

"We have visited places like Syracuse where we got to see the campus and all the sites around it," he said during a sit down this past weekend.

At least one major recruiting outlet lists Stallard as three-star recruit. 247 Sports places him as the number 11 overall recruit and the number 18 offensive lineman in the country for the 2025 class. He played multiple O-line spots as a sophomore, including both tackle positions for a Christiansburg team that fell in the state Class 3 semi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARTER STALLARD

Christiansburg ('25) lineman Carter Stallard visited with Virginia Tech Coach Brent Pry and his staff last month and received an offer to join the Hokies. At 6-7, 305, he towers over most other players and coaches.

finals.

Stallard started playing in the Christiansburg Recreation Department football program at a very young age, and almost every year, he has much larger than the other kids. In eighth grade, he was already listed at 6-6.

Of course, playing at Christiansburg in the shadow of the Virginia Tech campus, Stallard might be leaning toward familiarity. "Yes, I like Virginia Tech and the coaching staff, but others have made an impression too," he said this past weekend. The Hokies were one of the first ones to make Stallard an offer.

He recently came back from a visit with Kirby Puckett in Georgia, and Stallard admitted sometimes it can be a little overwhelming on these visits, but he is trying to stay humble.

A scouting report by the University of Georgia had this to say about the rising junior: "Stallard's natural size and

power make him a bully at the line, and he's able to move defensive players off the ball by sheer virtue of his strength. He's more comfortable than the average big guy moving his feet laterally (though he'll want to improve the quickness and the repeated patterns of the footwork to make it smoother), and he can be a factor in zone blocking or pulling through the hole. His hands could use some technique refinement, as well. Given his height, he has to work hard to maintain leverage at the point of attack, and he'll want to keep improving flexibility in the lower body as he shapes his body for the next level, but the tools are in place to be a dominating lineman."

Stallard also shines in the classroom with a 3.89 grade point average. He hopes to major in business with a future career in coaching.

"Georgia talked about the opportunities I could

have there to mentor under the coaches for my future endeavor," Stallard said.

But for, his recruitment is wide open, and he is centered about his hometown. Several prep schools have contacted him about attending their facilities. "I'm not interested. I want to be in Christiansburg," he said.

Stallard says the way the Blue Demons finished last season, losing to Heritage in the state semis, was a little disappointing. "Now, we have something to prove (this year)," he said.

Already he is working on his foot work and adding lots of muscle mass. He is squatting 400 pounds and has deadlifted 525.

"I was just want to keep improving and then I will decide where to go to school," Stallard concluded.

When it's all said it done, he could be the highest recruited player ever from Christiansburg.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EPSY

Blacksburg soccer player Edric Zhang and his coach Shelly Blumenthal attended Thursday's National Gatorade Player of the Year ceremony during EPSY's Epsy award show in Los Angeles.

BHS soccer star honored at Epsy's

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The honors keep coming in for Blacksburg High school star Edric Zhang. Thursday, he was honored at the EPSY award show in Los Angeles for the Gatorade Player of the Year Awards.

Zhang was announced previously as Virginia's Gatorade soccer player of the year. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior midfielder scored nine goals and passed for seven assists this past

season, leading the Bruins (18-2) to the Class 4 State Tournament quarterfinals.

The 2022 River Ridge District Player of the Year and a two-time All-Region 4D selection, Zhang was invited to train with the U.S. Soccer Under-14, Under-15 and Under-16 national teams in three consecutive summers.

Having previously only played club soccer, he concluded his two-year prep soccer career with 12 goals and 17 assists. In the summer of 2022, Zhang was selected to participate in the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars Summer Camp fully funded by NASA. A research intern in Virginia

at Tech's College of Engineering, he has volunteered locally as the manager of the Blacksburg High School store. He has also donated his time on behalf of a food pantry and as a youth soccer coach.

"We never had an answer for Edric's speed, creativity and ability," said Dave Atkins, head coach of

Salem High School. "He has a rare combination of physical size, speed and skill on the ball that make him very hard to defend."

While being outstanding on the field, Zhang has also been an outstanding student in the classroom, which he was honored for during the EPSY's. Zhang was awarded the Academic Achievement Awards for his efforts in the classroom.

He will attend Princeton University after finishing high school with a 4.66 weighted GPA in the classroom. Zhang is also a National Honors Society member, a research intern at the Virginia Tech College of Engineering and was selected to participate in NASA-sponsored Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars Summer Camp at the NASA Langley Research Center.

The Gatorade Player of the Year Awards celebrates the next generation of great athletes for their incredible accomplishments on and off the playing field. Each year, Gatorade brings together its 12 National Players of the Year, the best of the best in high school sports, to recognize their accomplishments and celebrate their bright futures alongside professional athletes and industry tastemakers.

Because the Gatorade Player of the Year program recognizes excellence on and off the field of play, awards were also presented in categories across academics, athletics and community impact. Selected from all of the state Player of the Year winners, Alexa Pino (2022-23 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year) won the Highlight of the Year award. Myah Selland (2016-17 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year) took home the Community Grant Award for her commitment to sportsmanship, character and community, while Zhang (2022-23 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year) was awarded the Academic Achievement Awards for his efforts in the classroom.

"Each year, we're thrilled to bring the 12 Gatorade National Players of the Year to Los Angeles for a truly special, one-of-a-kind experience to celebrate their amazing accomplishments on and off the field," said Gatorade Portfolio president and general manager Michael Del Pozzo. "The star-studded event is a glimpse into their undoubtedly successful careers and futures as they join previous winners of the prestigious Gatorade Player of the Year award."

The Player of the Year Awards are the culmination of an unparalleled three-day journey for the Gatorade National Players of the Year, who get to experience Los Angeles like a professional athlete with 5-star accommodations, educational opportunities, a trip to the ESPYs and more. As part of the experience, Gatorade and its national winners stopped by First Break Academy, an award-winning community tennis program empowering Los Angeles youth to excel in tennis, academics and life, to play tennis and answer questions on what it takes to reach the next level. Gatorade's Head of Athlete Intelligence and Community Impact Tommy Adams also presented a check on behalf of Gatorade to cover the organization's travel, rental and tournament fees to provide athletes with an equitable and safe place to play.

Additionally, all Gatorade State Players of the Year have the opportunity to give back, each awarding a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Gatorade also awards one spotlight grant of \$10,000 for each of the 12 sports recognized by the program. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.4 million across more than 1,800 organizations. Gatorade also gave an additional \$25,000 grant to the second-annual Gatorade Community Grant Award winner, presented at the Gatorade Player of the Year Awards.

Beamer named grand marshal for SFX race

In cooperation with both Pulaski County Motorsports Park and the Superstar Racing Experience (SRX), Pulaski County is excited to announce that legendary former Virginia Tech football head coach, Frank Beamer, has been named as the Grand Marshal for the SRX race on July 27, 2023.

As one of the most highly respected and successful college football coaches of all time, Frank Beamer is the perfect person to serve as the Grand Marshal for what will be the largest professional sporting event in the history of the New River Valley. Beamer served as head coach for the Virginia Tech Hokies from 1987-2015, whom he put on the map by leading them to a national championship appearance in 2000, three Big East championships, and four ACC titles. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame three years after his retirement in 2018. As Grand Marshal for this exciting event, Beamer will conduct the start of the race by announcing the command for drivers to start their engines. Beamer's presence will draw attention and viewership at an even larger level and

will showcase Pulaski County as a national attraction.

The SRX race will be held at Pulaski County Motorsports Park on July 27, 2023, and will be broadcasted live on ESPN with an estimated viewership of two million. An extensive list of world-class drivers are set to participate in this major event including two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, Kyle Busch, three-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, Tony Stewart, 2023 Indianapolis 500 champion, Josef Newgarden, and many more incredible drivers.

In addition to the announcement of Frank Beamer as Grand Marshal, the Jared Stout Band will be putting on two separate performances leading up to the race; once at 5:15 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

Pulaski County is pleased to welcome both Frank Beamer and the Jared Stout Band at the SRX race to further enhance what will be an amazing experience for all in attendance.

-Pulaski County Motorsports

Former player returns to RU as coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

The Radford softball program announced Thursday afternoon that former Radford player Laura Thompson will join the team's coaching staff for the

upcoming season.

Thompson joins the Highlanders after a successful graduate season with the team. Earning all-academic honors and coming just

short of the scholar-athlete of the year award, Thompson played a key role in the Highlanders defensive and offensive production. Her .325 average and .816 OPS

both ranked second on the team and she was just one of two Highlanders to start and play in every game.

Before joining the Highlanders last season, Thompson had spent four years amassing an incredible career at Concord. Thompson played under head coach Alisa Tasler at Concord, before Tasler came to coach the Highlanders beginning with the 2022 spring season. Thompson brings a wealth of experience to the Highlanders and will serve a vital role in continuing the success of the program.

-Radford University Athletics

Lady Hokies to play in Cayman Islands

Newly crowned national champion LSU headlines an impressive field in the inaugural Cayman Islands Classic women's college basketball tournament, announced by Caymax Sports Ltd.

The tournament is one of four schools ranked in the top 13 of the final USA Today/WBCA Coaches poll which will play in the eight-team tournament to be held Nov. 24-25 at John Gray Gymnasium, just minutes away from world famous Seven Mile Beach.

The tournament field includes No. 4 ranked Virginia Tech, which also played in the Final Four, along with No. 9 UConn and No. 13 UCLA, plus Kansas, which captured the recent WNIT championship. Niagara, Tulane and Virginia round out the field.

"We are excited to showcase these incredible teams," said Joanne P. McCallie, Executive Tournament Director. "The development of this inaugural tournament speaks to Caymax Sports and their commitment to the spirit of Title IX while featuring the very best in women's basketball competition."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such incredible teams and coaches," McCallie added. "This is a special field with programs that have a rich tradition in women's basketball and will set the standard for future tournaments."

"The Cayman Islands is very proud to be the host destination for the prestigious women's D1 basketball tournament," said the Honorable Kenneth Bryan, Minister of Tourism for the Cayman Islands. "This tournament brings elite U.S. women's college basketball teams to our shores and the Department of Tourism recognizes the event's magnitude for attracting new visitors to the country. We look forward to extending our Cayman kindness to the visiting teams and fans to ensure their time with us will be memorable."

"The quality and rich tradition of these participating teams will make this inaugural edition of the Cayman Islands Classic the premier preseason women's college basketball tournament this year," added Joe Wright, chief executive officer for Caymax Sports Ltd.

LSU defeated Iowa, 102-85 in the championship game of the NCAA Women's Tournament Sunday in Dallas, Texas, with the game averaging 9.9 million television viewers for the most-watched women's college basketball game ever.

LSU (34-2), the No. 3 seed in the Greenville Region after finishing the regular season second in the SEC, erased a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit with a 22-3 run in the national semifinal to defeat No. 1-seed Virginia Tech, 79-72.

See **Lady Hokies**, page 8

Lady Hokies

from page 7

On the road to the Women's Final Four, the Tigers defeated No. 14 Hawai'i and No. 6 Michigan at the Maravich Center, before knocking off No. 2-seeded Utah and No. 9-seeded Miami to advance to Dallas.

It was the fourth championship in as many title game appearances in Kim Mulkey's coaching career (previous wins at Baylor in 2005, 2012 and 2019), as she became the first women's basketball coach to win NCAA championships at multiple schools.

UConn, under Hall of Fame coach Geno Auriemma, is the most successful women's basketball program in the nation, having won a record 11 NCAA Division I National Championships and a women's record four in a row, from 2013 through 2016.

The Huskies have taken part in every NCAA tournament since 1989 including a record 14 consecutive Final Fours. UConn recorded a 31-6 mark this season advancing to the Sweet 16 of the 2023 NCAA Tournament.

Virginia Tech accomplished many firsts this year: 31 wins, an ACC championship, a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament and appearances in the Elite Eight and Final Four before falling to eventual national champ LSU in the semifinal round.

UCLA went 27-10 this past season — the most wins at the school since 2017-18 — while advancing to the Sweet Sixteen of the 2023 March Madness Tournament before falling to top-seeded and defending national champion South Carolina, 59-43.

Kansas capped off a 25-11 season by winning the program's first-ever WNIT championship with a 66-59 win over Columbia.

Tulane posted an 18-14 record this past season, while playing in the WNIT for the third straight year.

Virginia, under first year head coach Amaka Agugua-Hamilton, went 15-15 while receiving an invitation to

postseason play for the first time in five years. The Cavaliers declined the WNIT due to a limited number of healthy players.

Niagara enjoyed an 18-13 record—the first winning record at the school since the 2004-05 season — while advancing to a postseason tournament (WNIT) for the first time in school history.

The Virginia Tech men's basketball program has announced it will embark on a nine-day foreign tour to Switzerland and Italy, August 4-12. The trip will span nine cities and will feature two exhibition games for the Hokies.

In other Hokie basketball news, Virginia Tech women's basketball Head Coach Kenny Brooks announced the hiring of Jauwan Scaife as assistant coach Thursday.

"I am extremely excited to add Jauwan to our staff," Brooks said. "He brings energy and a wealth of knowledge that will benefit not just our athletes but the entire staff. He is top notch and a rising star in our profession."

A native of Muncie, Indiana, Scaife spent the 2022-23 season at Ball State, his alma mater.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Hokie family," Scaife commented. "I am eager to get started and look forward to working alongside this incredible staff led by Coach Brooks."

Scaife returned to his alma mater after spending two seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Utah State women's basketball team. During the 2021-22 season, the Aggies finished the season ranked third in offensive rebounds per game (12.43) and fourth in assists per game (14.20).

Prior to Utah State, Scaife had a similar role at Murray State from 2018 to 2020, where he had key roles in player development, recruiting, offensive schemes and game plans and assisted with in-game adjustments. During the 2018-19 season, Scaife helped the Racers to nine conference victories, the most by Murray State since the 2008-09 season. Scaife also

helped Evelyn Adebayo and Macey Turley earn All-Ohio Valley Conference honors.

Before his time at Murray State, Scaife spent the 2017-18 season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Evansville, where he worked primarily with perimeter players. Scaife helped Kerri Gasper earn honorable mention All-Missouri Valley Conference accolades.

Scaife was also an assistant coach at Southeast Missouri for two seasons under Rekha Patterson. At Southeast Missouri State, he helped the Redhawks advance to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament for the first time in seven seasons during the 2015-16 campaign. One of his players, Brianna Mitchell, was named to the All-OVC team during his time at Southeast Missouri.

A fantastic player in his own right, Scaife was a four-year letter winner from 2009-2013 at Ball State, where he was a Second-Team All-MAC selection as a senior in 2012-13 and a MAC All-Freshman Team choice in 2009-10. He completed his Master's degree in physical education from Ball State in 2013 while also holding the role of graduate assistant for two years with the Cardinals.

Scaife finished his career 14th in program history with 1,326 career points and became the 26th 1,000-point scorer in Ball State history. He finished with 203 career 3-pointers, breaking the school record in the final game of his career. He ended his career ranked seventh in program history in career minutes played (3,368), tied for seventh in games played (120) and ninth in games started (93). Scaife also wrapped up his career ranked 11th in career free throws made (317), 13th in free throw percentage (.783) and 15th in free throw attempts (405).

Prior to Ball State, Scaife was a three-year letter winner at Muncie Central High School. Scaife is also the cousin of former Ball State and NBA standout Bonzi Wells.

-Virginia Tech Athletics

Tech LAX player talks about battle with cancer

Life's not perfect. This is a lesson I learned the hard way.

Before my sophomore year of college at Virginia Tech, I always put a ton of pressure on myself to excel in everything I did. Whether it was in the classroom — and especially on the lacrosse field — I wanted to be the best.

While it's good to set goals and challenge yourself, it should never come at the expense of your mental health.

During my sophomore year, for the first time in my life, I had no choice but to slow down and examine what I truly wanted out of my life.

I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and needless to say, it turned my world upside down.

Ever since then, as I dealt with my own mental health struggles due to the diagnosis, I've been a huge advocate for student-athletes putting their mental health at the forefront.

This summer, I've been able to continue my passion for mental health by working with the counseling and athletic mental performance team at VT.

As student-athletes, because of our abilities and the fierce competition that we face, we're too often looked down upon for showing any kind of weakness. But being open and transparent about your mental health is not a weakness.

It's a strength.

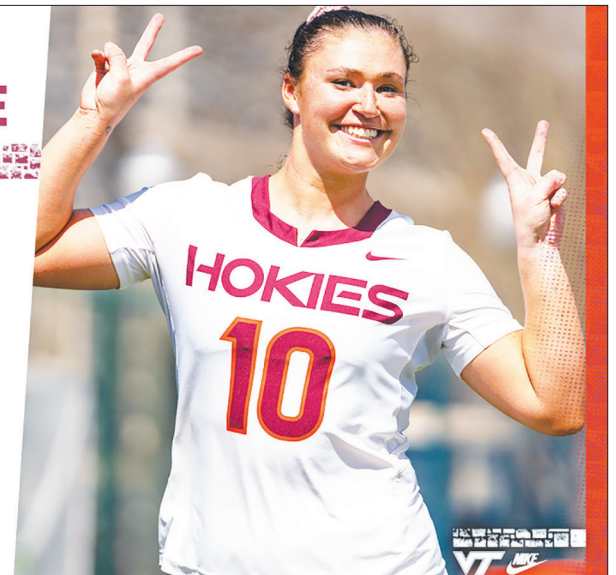
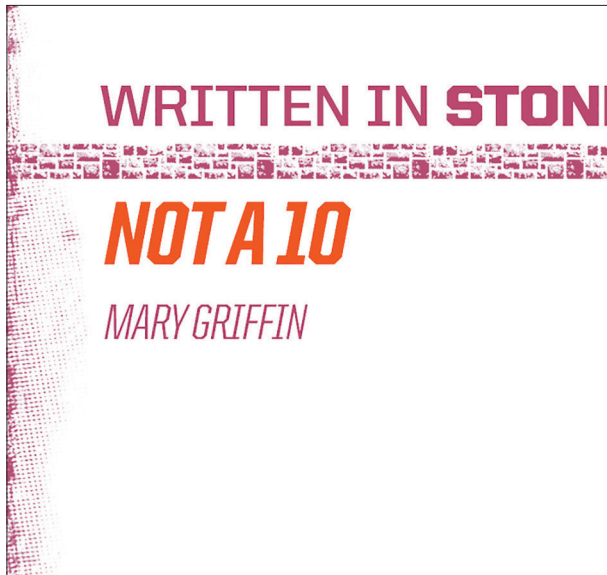
It's unfortunate that it took going through cancer for me to open my eyes to this realization, but I remain grateful to be in the position I'm in to help student-athletes share their stories and know the truth about what truly matters in life.

Combining my passion

I'm a Sports Media & Analytics major, which is another area I'm passionate about. Throughout my studies, I've thoroughly enjoyed learning about the marketing and graphic design aspects that come with sports media.

That's why when the opportunity came up to work with the sports psychology department at VT, it was a no-brainer because it combined all of my passions together.

So far this summer, I've worked quite a bit with the



Virginia Tech's Mary Griffin saw her biggest battle off the lacrosse field when she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

department's social media in creating graphics and promoting mental health awareness.

Another significant role in my internship is looking at the calendar and planning events this fall. I've been helping to prepare for Student-Athlete Mental Health Week this upcoming October, and it's been exciting getting in contact with prominent individuals to come to our campus and talk to our student-athletes.

To know I'm playing a role in making an impact for my VT family in spreading the message about the importance of mental health means more than I'll ever be able to adequately describe.

There for each other

Another area I've enjoyed in my internship is helping to establish that peer-to-peer connection.

All student-athletes at VT have free access to the Calm app, which helps to reduce anxiety, depression, and provides various strategies to help you meditate and improve your sleep.

Recently, I was in charge of sending out a survey to student-athletes, asking them questions about if they use the app, when they use it, how beneficial it is to them, etc.

I look forward to going through those responses and working with the student-athletes to make the most of this powerful resource.

Additionally, I'm working with one of the sports psychologists to create drop-in groups this fall for injured athletes, athletes experiencing

grief/loss, and athletes dealing with body image.

With these groups, the main focus is how athletes can support other athletes and be there for each other. No matter how alone you might feel in the problems you're facing, there are others going through the same level of challenges and adversity.

I'm confident all the work I've put in this summer with the sports psychology department is going to create such a healthy and supportive environment on campus, which is why this internship has been so gratifying to be a part of.

Make your mess your message

When I was going through pancreatic cancer, and I was at my lowest, I remember being in a state of confusion.

Why did I have to deal with cancer at such a young age? What did I ever do to deserve this?

Those questions took a toll on my mental health, especially since I had no answers for them.

Throughout this time, my mom showed me a quote from Robin Roberts that's stuck with me ever since: "Make your mess your message."

That hit home for me because I was in a messy situation, but I didn't have to let that situation control me. I could make it into a message to inspire myself and other people.

I quickly discovered that real-life problems happen to people every single day. While I felt alone at times during my cancer diagnosis, there are people out there that have it far worse, and I learned a lot about myself and others throughout this journey.

After I made a full recovery, I've taken pride in being an outlet for people to talk to and not being afraid to ask them difficult questions.

I have no issue going up to any of my friends and teammates and asking them directly how their mental health is doing. I've learned that if you give people a platform to be transparent, vulnerable, and share their truth, it is going to improve their happiness and well-being.

While pancreatic cancer brought out the worst of me at times, I wouldn't change any of it for the world because it's truly been a life-changing experience.

-Mary Griffin

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Friday, July 28th at 3 PM

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Check out this rare opportunity to own 2 lots and a contemporary home on the corner of Toms Creek Road and Kelsey Lane in Blacksburg VA. Home is on one lot, and the adjoining lot may be built upon or kept vacant. The home has 2,915+/- square feet of living area, 4 bedrooms, and 3 bathrooms with public water and sewer. No Homeowner's Association.

This property consists of 2 separate lots that will be sold together. One lot is the site of the existing house on .34 - Acre at 603 Kelsey Lane, and the other is a BUILDABLE corner lot of .26-Acre at 601 Kelsey Lane. If a new buyer desires to build on the corner lot after purchase, a survey would be required per Zoning Administrator at Blacksburg Planning and Building. Refer to the map section in the Bidder Pack for Lot details. The property is zoned R-4. Don't miss your opportunity to acquire this rare property!

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final high bid to arrive at the contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required by 5 pm on July 28th, 2023. Close on or before September 12th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold "as is, where is, with any and all faults." Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. If confirmed Buyer will be expected to sign a Real Estate Purchase Agreement. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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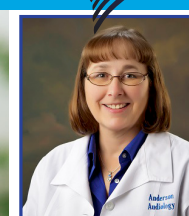


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