



News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, October 28, 2023

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Official ground-breaking ceremony held for CHS renovation project

CHRISTIANSBURG - Montgomery County leaders officially broke ground Tuesday on a planned \$80 million expansion at Christiansburg High School.

While the project was approved in 2022, the discussion dates over 10 years ago. Thus, many of the speakers at this week's groundbreaking used the word "finally."

School Board member Jamie Bond told onlookers this school is something both students and the community can be proud of.

"Keeping this location was so important," she said.

Bond said Christiansburg parents, students and the community had been waiting for this to happen. Shane Guynn, the CHS principal, said good things come to those that wait.

At the heart of the project are new classrooms, which increase the capacity of the school by more than 400 students. Major upgrades include more window space—a direct opposite to the current school's brick front.

School Board member



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Local leaders pitch the first shovel-full of dirt for the new Christiansburg High School. The project will include a completely new addition to the front of the current school off Independence Blvd.

Penny Franklin said that is a major upgrade so more natural light will be available to the building as a whole. The architectural firm, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, designed the facility and says a key challenge and guiding principle to the

See Ceremony, page 4



COURTESY PHOTO

Francisco De Jesus Delgado Arevalo

North Carolina kidnapping, attempted murder suspect arrested in Christiansburg

Heather Bell
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CHRISTIANSBURG - A North Carolina teenager wanted for kidnapping and attempted murder was arrested Tuesday in Christiansburg after a Christiansburg Police officer recognized

his vehicle.

"On Oct. 24, 2023 at approximately 1 a.m., Christiansburg Police spotted a vehicle matching the description of a North Carolina man wanted for attempted murder and kidnapping," the police department announced Wednesday. "Christiansburg officers immediately pursued

the vehicle and subsequently arrested the driver, Francisco De Jesus Delgado Arevalo, 18. The victim, a 17-year-old female, was inside the vehicle. She was taken to the hospital for treatment and is expected to recover."

See Suspect, page 4

Regional leaders celebrate award winners

RADFORD - The New River Valley Regional Commission has presented three awards to people who have impacted the New River Valley in a positive way.

On Oct. 19, 2023, the NRVRC's board of directors, comprised of elected officials and citizen appointees across the region, hosted a dinner event at the Volvo Customer Center in Dublin, VA to honor their annual award recipients. Approximately 100 local government elected officials, state and



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRVRC

The New River Valley Regional Commission is pleased to announce three award winners for 2023. (Center) Citizen of the Valley is Cathy Hanks, Friends of Peak Creek/New River Conservancy; Champions of the Valley are Delegate Jason Ballard, Virginia House of Delegates, at left; and Robert Graham, Pulaski County Schools Superintendent, at right.

federal representatives, and local government planning commission chairs were in attendance.

Cathy Hanks, with Friends of Peak Creek and the New River Conservancy, received the Citizen of the Valley

award. This award is given to a citizen within the New River Valley who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. Hanks was selected based on her leadership in environmental stewardship having served as President

of Friends of Peak Creek since 2015. She has led the organization to accomplish numerous watershed improvement projects all the while focusing on engaging the community

See Winners, page 4

Board of Supervisors give thanks to retiring County Administrator

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

During their regular Monday meeting on Oct. 23, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors shared a video presentation expressing their gratitude and support, along with stories both humorous and emotional, for County Administrator Craig Meadows as he retires from Montgomery County.

Angela Hill has been named as the new County Administrator and served as Deputy County Administrator and County Financial Officer prior to her new appointment.

Hill said that from the first time she first met and spoke with Meadows, she knew he "had a great amount of integrity and was a really nice guy."

Supervisors shared well wishes and support for Meadows as he begins a new chapter of his life in retirement after over 14 years of service to Montgomery County.

"Craig, you've been a blessing to our county. Montgomery County is so much better just because of you, your leadership, your personal touch," Supervisor Sara Bohn said.

Supervisor Darrell Sheppard recalls Meadows was the first one to call and congratulate him upon his election to the board.

"You got my attention the day after the first election when I got elected to the board, you were the first one to call me and congratulate me and lead me through the process," Sheppard said. "And I greatly appreciated that."

Supervisor April DeMotts thanked Meadows for not only his leadership but his mentorship to her over the past eight years, especially in handling difficult situations that come up in their roles as county supervisors.

"I feel like in our time together I've learned so very much about the art of diplomacy and how to answer a question, without not really answering the question in the most politically friendly way possible," DeMotts said. "But truly it's been a pleasure."

Although Meadows will not be an employee of the county, many of the Supervisors expressed the hope that he will continue to be part of the work they do.

Supervisor Mary Biggs has served with Meadows the entire tenure of his service, she said.

"Thank you, Craig. For the guidance and preparing us as we move on, for your leadership through hard times, such as the collapse of the Blacksburg High School roof and the pandemic, and for your accessibility and care that you have given to the staff, our citizens and to us as individual

See Meadows, page 2

Radford University announces Radford Tuition Promise

Heather Bell
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RADFORD - Radford University has introduced a new program to cover all tuition costs for students whose families make \$100,000 or less annually.

The Radford Tuition Promise, a program guaranteeing coverage of tuition costs for residents of the

commonwealth with a household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$100,000 or less, was announced Wednesday.

The initiative "covers all tuition costs, not including fees or room and board, and applies to in-person undergraduate students at all Radford University locations," according to the university. Virginia residents who

are new or returning students to Radford can take advantage of the Radford Tuition Promise beginning in fall 2024. The program will "offer Virginians better access to higher education," the university announced.

"At Radford University, we believe that everyone deserves

See Promise, page 6



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Blues, Brews and BBQ today at St. Lukes and Odd Fellows Hall in Blacksburg

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - The New Town Festival: Blues, Brews, and BBQ, sponsored by the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation and Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. is today, Saturday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Guests to the event can expect good food, craft beer, wine, and of course the great sounds of talented blues performers.

Music will begin at noon with the JoJo Stockton Project. Each musical group will perform for one

hour and fifteen minutes and will be followed by a 30-minute break. Lady D & Mi\$\$ion will take the stage at 1:45 p.m. and Isaac Hadden will perform for the last set at 3:30 p.m.

Feast and Company and Papa's Box will sell food and Blue Ridge Beverage will provide wine and beer for purchase.

Although the event is free, a donation of \$10 is encouraged. This is the 9th annual event for the historic building and landmark at the former social gathering place of African Americans in the Blacksburg community. The location

is now a museum and is free for the public to visit by appointment. Funds from the Blues, Brews, and BBQ event will go to the continued restoration of the building. The museum will be open to event attendees

and guests can experience a step back in time as well as viewing exhibits in the historic location.

According to www.blacksburg.gov, the current exhibit on display is titled From Civil War to Civil Rights, "and chronicles the

lives of African Americans throughout the years, some of whom lived in Blacksburg's historic New Town."

St. Lukes and Odd Fellows Hall is located at 203 Gilbert St., Blacksburg. Visitors to the event may

park in the parking garage just across the street from the Hall.

Additional information about the museum and the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation can be found at www.blacksburgmuseum.org.

BM&CF
BLACKSBURG MUSEUM AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION
PRESENTS
BLUES BREWS & BBQ

AT HISTORIC
ST. LUKE & ODD FELLOWS HALL
SAT. OCT. 28TH
11-5PM

SPONSORED BY
VIRGINIA TECH FOUNDATION
NORTH END

203 GILBERT STREET
BLACKSBURG, VA
WWW.BLACKSBURGMUSEUM.ORG

Free Admission \$10 Donation Suggested

Featuring
Lady D and Mi\$\$ion

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BMCF

Luther Memorial presents free community concert

BLACKSBURG - Luther Memorial Lutheran Church announces a free community concert celebrating the music of the Protestant Reformation on Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 600 Prices Fork RD., Blacksburg.

The concert will present the music of Reformation-era composers including J.S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel and others.

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church has a strong history of musician and choral excellence and a deep appreciation for exceptional music. Professional musicians featured in this concert include Mezzo Soprano Raquel Winnica Young (<http://www.raquelwinnicayoung.com/biography.html>); Kelley Mikkelson, Principal Cellist of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra; Bill Parrish,

Principal Oboist of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra; Jay Crone, Organist at Luther Memorial, and members of the Virginia Tech music faculty. Several arias from cantatas by J.S. Bach will be performed, as well as one of Bach's suites for unaccompanied cello; organ solos; and arrangements of familiar Lutheran hymns for organ and brass quartet.

Luther Memorial Organist Dr. Jay Crone points out the connection between Reformer Martin Luther and composer J.S. Bach: "Martin Luther wrote his Ninety-Five Theses in 1517, kicking off a series of events that would change the Western world forever. Along the way, Luther created a new way of thinking about music and worship. Two hundred years later, J.S. Bach took Luther's ideas and created some of the most sublime sacred and secular music ever composed. In this

Reformation Sunday concert, we celebrate past traditions as well as current trends in sacred Protestant music."

Reverend Monica Weber, pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, is excited to present this free concert to the Blacksburg and NRV communities.

"We are thrilled to host these talented music professionals. Our pipe organ and sanctuary provide the ideal setting for community concerts, and it is a privilege to welcome our members, friends and neighbors to join us as we listen and learn about Reformation-era music. Dr. Jay Crone has planned a vibrant, moving program that all ages can enjoy, including the opportunity for concert-goers to sing along with some popular Reformation-era hymns."

- Luther Memorial Church

DOC AT 100 Moss Arts Center
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
November 1, 2023
@ 7:00 PM

Presented By
Montgomery Museum
OF ART & HISTORY

Purchase tickets @
www.montgomerymuseum.org/events/music
Box Office # 540-231-5300

PHOTO COURTESY OF MMAH

Montgomery Museum presents 'DOC AT 100' benefit concert at Moss Arts Center

Concert celebrates the Life and Legacy of Doc Watson

BLACKSBURG - The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is expanding its definition of the arts by presenting the "DOC AT 100" concert program at the Moss Arts Center on Nov. 1, 2023, at 7 p.m.

"DOC AT 100" is a traveling concert program, which celebrates the life and legacy of Doc Watson by artists who performed with Doc, were profoundly influenced by his music, and called him a friend. This includes T. Michael Coleman and Jack Lawrence, who performed, recorded, and toured with Doc longer than any other musicians he worked with. Joining T. Michael and Jack are fellow guitarists Wayne Henderson and Jack Hinshelwood, who were both heavily impacted by Doc's music through his many recordings and performances. Wayne counted Doc as a close friend, especially in Doc's later years when he enjoyed visiting Wayne in his guitar-making shop in Rugby, Va.

Ted Olson, Professor of Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University, is the author of "Doc's World: Traditional Plus," the book that accompanies the four-CD compilation of recordings from Doc's career released in 2022 by Craft Records called "Doc Watson, Life's Work: A Retrospective." "DOC AT 100" begins with a talk led by concert host, Ted Olson on the legacy of Doc Watson followed by stories shared by the artists who knew Doc as a friend and fellow

performer. Audience members will also be encouraged to share their stories of Doc and the impact he had on them. Enjoy an evening of story-telling and traditional music under the lights to celebrate the legacy and life of Doc Watson.

A humanities talk will take place on Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Moss Arts Center "CUBE" and will be hosted by Ted Olson, Jack Hinshelwood, and Patrick Salmons, Adjunct Professor in conjunction with Virginia Tech's Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Religion and Culture program.

Students within Appalachian Studies and the Graduate Program in Material Culture and Public Humanities at Virginia Tech are invited to participate in the discussion about Doc Watson and his cultural influence on Appalachia.

Concert tickets may be purchased online at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History's website, www.montgomerymuseum.org/events/music, or by calling the Moss Arts Center Box Office at 540-231-5300. The presale cost will be \$25, and \$30 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Montgomery Museum of Art & History. This event is generously sponsored by Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Asset Solutions Corp., Shelter Alternatives, Inc., and Mike Eggleston Realtor at Coldwell Banker Townside Realtors.

- MMAH

Community Foundation of the NRV's scholarship application now open

BLACKSBURG - The Community Foundation of the New River Valley's (CFNRV) online scholarship application is now open.

Through the generosity of many donors, in 2024, the CFNRV will give out more than \$100,000 in scholarships to New River Valley (NRV) students. The scholarship application is open to graduating high school seniors and currently enrolled college students pursuing an education at a two-or-four-year college or university, trade, or technical school. Older adults returning to school are also welcome to apply.

Since issuing its first scholarship in 2002,

the CFNRV has awarded \$1,334,454.70 to more than 1,100 students. Now, the CFNRV has dozens of scholarship funds, each established by donors who wish to help others in our community further their education. Many funds were established in memory of loved ones with the goal of supporting NRV students for generations to come.

"We have a wide range of scholarship funds to support students from all walks of life," said Jessica Wirgau, the CFNRV's chief executive officer. "Some focus on graduating seniors, while others are open to students currently in a higher education setting or to individuals returning to school after time in the workforce or raising a family. Some prioritize financial need,

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Meadows

from page 1

board members," Biggs said.

Biggs urged Meadows to remember he is welcomed at public address, and the continued need for volunteers at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

Supervisor Sherri Blevins called Meadows "a true champion for Montgomery County and the New River Valley."

Supervisors Todd King and Steve Fijalkowski also expressed best wishes and stories of humor and support to Meadows.

At the end of the video presentation, a tearful Meadows addressed the Supervisors and Board audience.

"One of my sayings, you know, I've told folks I guess it means I'm getting old because I'm just full of

sayings now," Meadows said. "One of my sayings is to always try to leave things better than you found it. I think my mom and dad taught me that from an early age."

Meadows also expressed confidence in Angela Hill taking the position as County Administrator and thanked the Board for their words of support and recognition.

In other business conducted during the meeting, Jennifer Harris with the Public Information Office, shared the fiscal report of 2022-2023, beginning with a welcome video message from Meadows.

"Fiscal year 2023 marked another remarkable year with the county receiving numerous

national, regional, and local recognition for the many services we offer and the projects that we have completed," Meadows said.

Facts and Figures is a section of the report that highlights the work various programs and volunteer organizations have done in support of Montgomery County. According to the report, fire departments in the County have responded to nearly 3,000 calls for service and rescue squads responded to more than 11,600 calls for service. The sheriff's office responded to more than 31,000 calls for service among other work they completed for county citizens.

The full annual report can be accessed at www.montva.com and is titled FY2022-2023 Annual Report.

DEMOTTS FOR DISTRICT G

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE-ELECT APRIL TO:

- Increase funding for public schools
- Increase funding for parks and recreation
- Promote high quality, responsible economic development

ELECT APRIL **DEMOTTS** DISTRICT G BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ENDORSED BY: **MCMC** **MCEAPAC**

Paid for and authorized by DeMotts for District G

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 28:

Getting Scary on the Huckleberry 5k, One-Mile Kids Fun Run and Truck or Treat

The Christiansburg Department of Parks and Recreation presents the annual Getting Scary on the Huckleberry 5k, One Mile Kids Fun Run and Truck or Treat starting and ending at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. Race Day Schedule: 7:30-8:30 a.m.: Race Day Registration & Packet Pick-Up, 9 a.m.: One Mile Kids Fun Run, 9 -11:30 a.m.: Trunk or Treat, and 9:30 a.m.: 5k Walk / Run begins (immediately after Fun Run). Come dressed up in your favorite costume. Trucks from Christiansburg Fire, Police, Rescue and Public Works will be stationed for kids to look at and touch. Arts and craft, games, and Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. Organizations will be handing out candy. Space Rabbit with coffee and hot chocolate. Registration for the 5k is \$35. To register online for the 5k or free Kids Fun Run, visit: <https://www.active.com/christiansburg-va/running/distance-running-races/getting-scary-on-the-huckleberry-5k-and-fun-run-2023>. Admission for the Truck or Treat and Kids Fun Run are free.

Blues, Brews & BBQ

At St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall; 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ. The event is free, though a \$10 donation is encouraged. Music by JoJo Stockton, Lady D & Mi\$ion, and Isaac Hadden. Food and brews from Feast and Company, Papa's Box, and Blue Ridge Beverage will be for sale. They need volunteers to assist with beer pouring, ticket sales, and more during the event. Please email info@blacksburghistory.org if interested and they can figure out a spot just for you!

Fundraising Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County- Blacksburg is sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg United Methodist Church's Whisner Building. BUMC has a parking lot on the corner of Penn and Lee Streets. Cost is \$8 per person and tickets can be purchased at the door.

Monday, Oct. 30:

Radford Downtown Trick or Treat Trail

Along East Main Street and Third Avenue; 4 – 6 p.m. Wear your best costume and collect treats from downtown businesses

Radford Men's Basketball with Trick or Treat

At the Dedmon Center; 6 p.m. for trick-or-treating and game starts at 7 p.m. Wear your costume and collect treats before the game. Free admission.

Tuesday, Oct. 31:

Downtown Blacksburg 2023 Blacksburg Trick or Treat

Trick-or-Treat in Downtown Blacksburg with downtown Blacksburg Merchants. Parks and Recreation will have games on College Avenue. There will be a Costume Contest in front of The Lyric starting at 5:30 p.m. The Blacksburg Library will also have two Spooky Storytimes, at 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and the Alexander Black House will also be participating with candy pickup. Admission is free and all are welcome. The Blacksburg Library will have free parking.

Christiansburg Trick or Treat

The Montgomery County Government Center presents their annual Spooktacular Trick or Treating; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Join Parks & Recreation for Spooktacular Trick or Treating fun inside at the Government Center. This is a free event, and all are welcome to come and join in on the fun! Montgomery County Government Center is located at 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.

Thursday, Nov. 2:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4:

Book Sale

At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with our regular items, there will be an abundance of children's, science fiction, fantasy, young adult, and Christmas items for sale. Come and get a bargain and support the Radford Public Library.

Friday, Nov. 3 – Sunday, Nov. 5:

New River Stage presents "Last Word on Jesse James"

New River Stage (NRS) announces their fall production of Last Word on Jesse James. Performance location is Proclamation Theatre at Knights of Columbus Hall in Christiansburg. Proceeds benefit New River Community Action's To Our House program. The play depicts the famed outlaw through the eyes of a story telling Mississippi River fisher. Living on the streets, telling big fish tales, the fisher becomes an internet celebrity who attracts people from all over meet them person. Tickets

are available at proclamationtheatre.com.

and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5:

Women with a Vision Bible Study's Holiday Bazaar

At First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford. Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 – 3 p.m. Hot dogs, baked goods, coffee mugs, aprons, stockings, estate jewelry, cards, unique gifts, decorations, much more.

Wednesday, Nov. 8:

MCCC hosts Buy Local showcase

The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Buy Local Showcase, 3:45 – 6 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech. How important is it that you buy local this holiday season? Shopping local supports area businesses, their employees, our schools, and services. Showcase will include over 75 local businesses. Door prizes and raffles every 15 minutes. Event exclusive discounts and deals. Great place for holiday shopping and free to attend.

Monday, Nov. 13:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Nov. 14:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The 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

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.

Thursday, Nov. 16:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Johnathan McPeak will give a talk on the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

Online applications are being accepted and reviewed now through Dec. 6, 2023 to shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store in December. Please go to the Christmas Store website at www.mcchristmasstore.org and click on Apply to Shop. First, you will see the documents you need to have ready to upload before beginning the application process. Then scroll down some more to see the criteria you must meet to see if you are eligible to apply to shop at the Store in December. If you qualify to shop at the store Dec. 5-9, you will receive the link to select your shopping appointment.

Call for participants: 2023 Blacksburg Annual Holiday Parade

Citizens are invited to participate in Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade, organized by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. This year's theme is "Miracle on Main Street". Parade entries may be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, scout groups, bands, sports teams and more. The parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information on how to get involved, contact David Goodman, Community Programs Supervisor at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540.443.1106.

Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.



<p>THE FINCASTLE HERALD</p>	<p>The Vinton Messenger</p>	<p>THE NEW CASTLE RECORD</p>	<p>SALEM TIMES-REGISTER</p>	<p>News Messenger</p>	<p>RADFORD News Journal</p>	<p>ourvalley.org</p>
<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2141 VIEWLAND CIRCLE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.</p> <p>In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 19, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$185,050.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2020011217. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street,</p>	<p>Christiansburg, Virginia or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on December 4, 2023, at 2:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE CITY OF CHRISTIANSBURG, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY AND STATE OF VIRGINIA BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF LOT 52 OF VIEWLAND, SECTION</p>	<p>NO. 2, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 6 AT PAGE 179, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE IN THE EAST LINE OF VIEWLAND DRIVE CIRCLE AT THE CORNER OF LOT NO. 51; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF VIEWLAND DRIVE, N. 08 DEG. 55' E. 101.86 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE S. 84 DEG. 33' E. 200.36 FEET TO A STAKE IN THE LINE OF THE BESSIE Q. AITIZER LAND;</p>	<p>THENCE WITH THE AITIZER LAND, S. 08 DEG. 55 1/2' W. 100.86 FEET TO A STAKE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF VIEWLAND; THENCE WITH FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, N. 84 DEG. 33' W. 200.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 0.47 ACRES OR 20,371.15 SQUARE FEET, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 52 AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP OF VIEWLAND, SECTION 2, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6 AT PAGE 179. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original</p>	<p>principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50</p>	<p>cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller</p>	<p>confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-365366-1.</p> <div data-bbox="1461 3239 1663 3426" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING! Call 389-9355</p> </div>

CFNRV from page 2

while others focus on particular schools or majors. We truly do have something for everyone, and we feel fortunate that we can support so many impressive students with these scholarships.”

Interested applicants submit a single application and indicate the specific scholarships for which they would like to be considered. Most of the scholarship

funds benefit students living and/or going to school in the Virginia counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski as well as the City of Radford. Eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria for each scholarship can be found at cfnrv.org/scholarships. Those with financial need are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants are required to complete the

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and to submit a personal essay, their academic transcript, and two letters of recommendation. Some scholarship funds also require additional essays for students to be considered. If a student receives a scholarship, the awarded funds will be applied to the 2024-2025 school year.

All applications are due online by

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 at 5 p.m. Students interested in applying can learn more at cfnrv.org/scholarships. If you are interested in setting up a scholarship fund, please reach out to Jessica Wirgau at jessicawirgau@cfnrv.org or 540-381-8999.

~ News Messenger staff report

Winners from page 1

to increase their stewardship of Peak Creek.

Delegate Jason Ballard, Virginia House of Delegates, and Robert Graham, Pulaski County Schools Superintendent, were recipients of the Champion of the Valley award. This award is given to an appointed or elected official within, or representing, the New River Valley who has greatly assisted communities and residents during their service to the public.

Ballard's selection is in recognition of his accomplishments during his service in the Virginia General Assembly to

include passing Noah's Law, an increase in the severity of abduction of a minor from a class five felony to class two; along with his leadership serving on the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority. He is a former member of the Pearisburg Town Council and served as the town's representative to the New River Valley Regional Commission during which he was an active participant that brought a local voice to regional issues.

Graham was recognized for his passion in serving as a leader in education throughout his career to date having

served Radford City Public Schools in numerous capacities to include teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent and currently serving as superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools. His charismatic leadership coupled with countless acts of extreme caring have had life-long impacts on the children and families he serves daily.

Each award recipient was provided a custom stained-glass piece of art by the local artist Sandy Davenport, a member of 'Round the Mountain, Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network.

The New River Valley Regional Commission is one of 21 regions in Virginia whose commissions are chartered under Virginia law. The organization encompasses the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford. The purpose of the Regional Commission is to promote regional cooperation, to coordinate the activities and policies of member local governments, and to provide assistance to local governments.

Submitted by the NRVRC

Suspect from page 1

According to police, on Monday, Oct. 23, "officers in High Point, North Carolina responded to a reported kidnapping at a home in that area. A witness told officers that Delgado Arevalo came into the home, forced the victim out with a knife, put her in a vehicle and drove off. Officers determined the victim and suspect knew each other and took out warrants for Delgado Arevalo's

arrest. High Point officers quickly sent a notice to other agencies in several states to look out for the suspect and his vehicle."

"Christiansburg Police received the notice, and actively maintained watch for the vehicle. In the early hours of Tuesday, Oct. 24, Christiansburg officers V. Campos and P. Woodrum recognized the suspect's vehicle on Riner Road near Life Drive and followed the suspect onto I-81 N. Officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop when the suspect turned off the lights and fled. A pursuit ensued with the support of CPD officer Sgt. R. Sobina, Officer B. Taylor, and two Virginia State Police Troopers. The vehicle crashed near mile marker 123.5 and Delgado Arevalo was taken into custody."

Delgado Arevalo is facing several charges, both in High Point and in Christiansburg. In High Point, those charges

include attempted first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping, first-degree burglary, assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats. In Christiansburg, the suspect is facing charges including: fugitive from justice, eluding police, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and misuse of 911 system.

"The Christiansburg Police would like to recognize all involved officers for their commitment to safety and vigilance in protecting our community and those in need," the department announced. "We would also like to recognize the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police who aided in the rescue of the victim and arrest of the suspect. Lastly, we would like to thank the High Point Police Department for their quick communication, which allowed CPD officers to be on the lookout."

News Messenger

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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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Ceremony from page 1



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Conceptual drawings show what the new school looks like when finished, including a new gymnasium, library and cafeteria.

Christiansburg High School was to modernize an educational facility from a traditional classroom into open, modern learning spaces which provide a high level of flexibility for the teachers and students.

A statement from the company said: "additions and renovations to the school will not only modernize the building it will also provide additional space to accommodate increasing enrollment."

The 222,100-square-foot school was built in 1972 and has a current capacity of 800 students. The renovated school will have a capacity of 1,600 students. The new school will provide new modern learning environments, a new front entrance, a new auxiliary gymnasium and overall improved

wayfinding and organization.

The goal of the project is to add a new main entrance and administrative suite, two story classroom wing, cafeteria dining and kitchen along Independence Drive for the most advantageous phasing and to provide a new face to the high school.

Dr. Bernard Bragen, superintendent for Montgomery County Public Schools, said this has definitely been needed.

"We want to provide the learning spaces that are appropriate for our staff and students to be successful and in addition, we're going to increase the capacity in that school to have a few more students as well," he said.

After the renovation, officials from the school said it would be a shell of

what we see today.

"It will, in effect, be a brand-new building," said Bragen. "Our schools are a showcase for our community. They're the center of the hub where people come to meet."

Work is expected to span over the next two years with students walking into the building by the 2026-27 school year.

But Guynn pointed out some of the renovated areas could be open before then, with the entire school being in 2025.

"It will include some areas being occupied before the entire new structure is completed," he said.

Passersby will see the project develop in the front parking area of the current school.

CROSSWORD

		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Syrian president	39. Skin abrasions	7. Former CIA	33. Contended with difficulties
6. Grand Caravan brand	40. Caesar or tossed	8. Didymium	36. Egyptian beetle
11. Immeasurably small	44. Supplied with a chapeaux	9. Gram	37. CNN's Turner
14. Myriagram	45. Fictional elephant	10. Audio membranes	38. A quick light pat
15. Yellow-fever mosquito	47. Forced open	11. 8th Jewish month	39. Shipment, abbr.
16. Radioactivity unit	48. Pole (Scottish)	12. Touchdown	41. Resin-like insect secretion
18. Anklebone	50. Browning of the skin	13. Madames	42. Goat and camel hair fabric
21. Adobe house	51. Boy Scout merit emblem	14. Metric ton	43. Superficially play at
23. Direct to a source	56. British thermal unit	17. Fabric colorants	46. Network of veins or nerves
25. Piper __, actress	57. Decomposes naturally	19. Capital of Bashkortostan	49. Atomic #44
26. Leuciscus leuciscus	62. Freshet	20. Extra dry wine	51. Wager
28. Moral excellences	63. Lawn game	21. An Indian dress	52. The time something has existed
29. Describes distinct concepts		22. Expenditure	53. Physician's moniker

CLUES DOWN

1. Fished in a stream	25. Can top	27. So. African Music Awards	55. Pre-Tokyo
2. Left heart there	28. Weather directionals	30. A scrap of cloth	58. Out of print
3. Yes in Spanish	31. Gin & vermouth cocktails	32. A way to lessen	59. Ducktail hairstyle
4. Nursing organization			60. Carrier's invention
5. Cease to live			61. Canadian province
6. River in NE Scotland			

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OBITUARIES

McDaniel, Jr., Charles Thomas

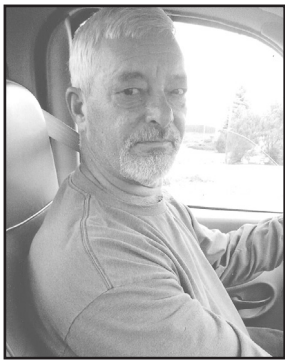
Charles “Junior” Thomas Jameson Allen; sister, Connie Scott; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice and caregivers Angela Cecil and Venesha Keith, and Fairlawn Church of God.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, at the Fairlawn Church of God. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the funeral home to help with expenses.

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



Survivors include his wife, Loretta McDaniel; daughters, Kim Allen (Greg), Kari McDaniel, and Whitney Nau (Dustin), Ashley Chrisley (Jake), and Kayla Whittaker; son, Kody McDaniel; mother, Ruby Gladys Phillips McDaniel; grandchildren, Adam Allen (Samantha), Drew Allen, Jackson Allen, Braxton McDaniel, Avery Nau, Addie Quesenberry, Alan Chrisley and Kaylea Chrisley; great grandson,

Thomas Jameson Allen; sister, Connie Scott; and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the funeral home to help with expenses.

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

Rule, Carol Virginia

It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to Carol Virginia Rule, who passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 18, surrounded by family and friends.

She was a devoted wife, sister, mom, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend; and we will miss her vibrant smile and infectious laugh. She met every challenge with grace and strength, a beacon of inspiration to all around her. Carol's faith was the center of who she was. She showed it through her care and attention to everyone and everything around her, nurturing family, friends, students, home, and garden. Wherever she lived, she built deep connections within her community as she became involved in church



and meeting her neighbors. An active member of Covington's Granbery Memorial United Methodist Church for decades, she belonged to the choir, and kept her children active in Sunday school, choir, and youth groups. In Monterey, she joined the Blue Grass United Methodist Church, connecting with that community as well.

Throughout the years, Carol maintained contact with so many friends from Radford, Staunton, Covington, and Monterey, and was always genuinely interested in finding out “what's new.” She gave thoughtful advice and was an attentive listener. She was extremely

community as well. Throughout the years, Carol maintained contact with so many friends from Radford, Staunton, Covington, and Monterey, and was always genuinely interested in finding out “what's new.” She gave thoughtful advice and was an attentive listener. She was extremely

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, “Associate”, 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttof.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!”

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

The God With Heart

Read Luke 7:1 through 8:56

Visit any Sunday School, Bible study, or small group and during their prayer time you're likely to hear of heartbreaking situations—financial difficulties, people dealing with cancer and other illnesses, teens getting killed in car accidents or gang-related violence, parents lamenting prodigal children, and so on.

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don't cry” (Luke 7:13).

Troubles are nothing new in this world. The people in Jesus' day had lives overflowing with trauma too. But Jesus didn't ever say, “Oh, stop whining and get

on with life.” Instead, the Bible tells us “his heart went out to her” in compassion.

That feeling of compassion hasn't changed. When we face minor troubles or major tragedies, God still lingers nearby, and His heart still goes out to us with compassion and mercy and love. He does not scold us for not trusting Him or tell us to get over it. He understands our feelings, pains, and frustrations. We do not serve a sterile God, but a God with a heart.

Thought for Today: When we cry, so many times God cries with us.

Quicklook: Luke 7:11-17

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

St Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A

place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff.” You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00am. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

Join Javon Jackson, Nikki Giovanni for an evening of gospel hymns and spirituals

BLACKSBURG - A historic collaboration between Virginia Tech legend Nikki Giovanni and saxophonist-composer and former Jazz Messenger Javon Jackson has culminated in the intimate and inspired jazz performance “The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni.” Jackson brings his bold-toned, John Coltrane-inspired tenor lines to bear on a series of hymns, spirituals, and gospel numbers hand-picked by Giovanni. Jackson and Giovanni are joined by celebrated jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon.

“The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni” comes to the Moss Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

from Virginia Tech’s Department of English last year after a 35-year tenure and recently made headlines with the development of a documentary about her life and career. “Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project,” was acquired by HBO Films after winning the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival earlier this year.

For the Moss performance, Giovanni will share some of her poetry and make a rare vocal appearance on the tender ballad “Night Song,” singing a song identified with her close friend, the late singer, songwriter, and civil rights activist Nina Simone.



Nikki Giovanni (at left) and Javon Jackson collaborate in the studio.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHABAN R. ATHUMAN

“These songs are so important,” Giovanni said of the selection of gospel hymns and spirituals. “They comforted people through times of slavery, and during recent years we needed them to comfort us again. But a lot of the students today do not know about the history of these songs, and they should. So I’m out here putting water on the flowers, because they need a drink.”

“Nina was a friend of mine, and I knew that one of her favorite songs was ‘Night Song,’” she said. “And even though I’m not a singer, I told Javon I wanted to sing it because I just wanted Nina to be remembered.”

“It’s the first time I worked in a collaborative manner,” Jackson, a former member of Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, said. “The project is personal for me. I come from a lineage of devout Christians, and that has afforded me the chance to connect with that ancestral stream.”

The musician, composer, and educator

also serves as the director of the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz at the Hartt School, part of the University of Hartford, and is mindful of his position and the importance of educating the next generation of players.

A world-renowned poet and one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts movement, Giovanni’s notable books of poetry are “Black Judgment” (1968) and “Those Who Ride the Night Winds” (1983), which were influenced by her participation in the Black Arts movement

and Black Power movement in the 1960s. Giovanni has published numerous collections of poetry — from her first self-published volume, “Black Feeling Black Talk” (1968), to New York Times bestseller “Bicycles: Love Poems” (2009).

Freelon is a multi-Grammy Award nominee worldwide as a compelling and captivating live performer. She recently starred in the critically acclaimed show “Georgia on My Mind: Celebrating the Music of Ray Charles” — no stranger to the music

of the master singer, she toured with Ray Charles, as well as many other great jazz artists, including Ellis Marsalis, Al Jarreau, George Benson, Earl Klugh, Take 6, and others.

Giovanni and Jackson also will meet with students, faculty, and staff at Virginia Tech’s Black Cultural Center for an informal conversation centered on the development of “The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni.”

Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and

under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center’s box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours. “The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni” is co-sponsored by the Black Cultural Center. This performance is supported in part by gifts from Ms. Kelli Whitfield and Dr. James M. Shuler and Ms. Margaret F. Shuler.

Susan Bland for Virginia Tech

Whirling disease detected at state fish hatchery



PHOTO COURTESY OF DWR

RICHMOND — Through recent testing, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has detected whirling disease in catchable sized trout at the state’s Marion Fish Hatchery in Southwest Virginia. DWR’s stringent fish-health protocols involve regular testing at state hatcheries to look for pathogens that are potentially harmful to hatchery raised and wild fish. DWR does not stock known whirling disease positive fish.

Regrettably, DWR has had to euthanize 40,000 catchable trout to control whirling disease. This represents about a 20% reduction in normal stocking levels for Southwest Virginia and a 5% reduction statewide. Consequently, trout anglers are likely to see a reduction in trout stocking, particularly in Dickenson, Buchanan, Wise, Lee, Scott, Russell, Washington, Smyth, Tazewell, and Grayson Counties. DWR is working to reallocate fish as feasible to make up for shortfalls and is implementing measures to reduce the future impact of this parasite on trout production.

Whirling disease is caused by a microscopic parasite, Myxobolus cerebralis. This parasite penetrates the cartilage tissue of a trout’s head and spine, multiplying rapidly and causing skeletal deformities. Trout with whirling disease can show spinal deformities or a blackened tail, which can impact swimming ability and feeding habits. Some infected fish swim in a circular motion, giving

the disease its “whirling” name. Fish showing these distinct symptoms have not been seen in the wild or at state hatcheries in Virginia.

This disease is fairly widespread and has been documented in more than 20 states including Virginia. Native to Europe, this parasite and disease were first detected in the United States in 1958. The parasite has a two-host lifecycle including small worms (tubifex worms) and trout. Both hosts are required for the parasite to complete its lifecycle. The host fish must be a salmonid, with rainbow trout being the most susceptible to the parasite. The parasite does not infect humans, even if you eat infected fish.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Obituaries

from page 5

close to her large extended family, hosting boisterous Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings in her home for years. Carol enjoyed keeping up with everyone, and usually knew everything going on with her niece and grandchildren. Teaching was Carol’s calling in life. The bulk of her teaching career was in the third grade, and right up to the end, she had the most technically exact cursive you’d ever see. She fostered a love of learning and was incredibly dedicated to her students. She enjoyed sharing stories of her time as a teacher, recalling lesson plans and fond memories of the classroom. Whenever her former students ran into her, they would stop and talk to her, mentioning the impact she had on their lives.

In 2001, Carol married Bill Rule. She loved to travel and cherished the trips they made together. For their honeymoon, they went to Greece and Italy, seeing the Parthenon and the Colosseum. She taught her students about the significance of those sites each year and was deeply moved to stand in front of them. She never forgot that sense of awe. Carol and Bill also traveled along Route 66 in an RV, taking any side road or detour she wanted. She adored the vast landscapes of the Southwest. As the years passed, Carol gradually slipped into a caregiver role, devoting her entire being to provide the love and support Bill needed until his death last March. Never one to sit still, Carol had many hobbies. She was an avid gardener, maintaining

large flower beds and landscaping, as well as filling the inside of her home with plants. She was always adding to her collections, much to the chagrin of anyone who had to water them.

Carol loved being active. She exercised daily, was a substitute spin teacher in her seventies, and danced with a clogging group—loving the people in it, as well as the “fast songs.” She walked daily, and outpaced all who went with her, much to her delight. An avid sports fan, she adored the Virginia Tech Hokies, and was invested in their games right until the very end. Carol’s kindness, strength, and grace left an impact on all surrounding her. She was the cornerstone of her family and will be dearly missed. She is survived by her brother, Robert Young and his wife Bozana; her niece, Alessandra Young; her children, Cheryl Mackian, Jim Pace and his wife Tracy, and Dave Pace and his wife Sarah Forman; her grandchildren, Noah Pace and his wife Sarah, Seth Pace, Emma Pace and her fiancé Nate Usher, Sam Mackian and his wife Amber, Sara Mackian; and great-grandchild, Quinn Pace.

A celebration of her life will be held in the spring, with further details forthcoming. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Granbery Memorial United Methodist Church in Covington, Virginia, Blue Grass United Methodist Church in Blue Grass, Virginia, or your local humane society.

www.montcova.com

Promise

from page 1

a high quality and affordable education,” President Bret Danilowicz said in a video announcing the initiative. “That isn’t just something we say,

it’s what we do. That’s why we are introducing the Radford Tuition Promise.”

“Students come first at Radford University, and we take pride in removing barriers to the life-changing difference that a degree makes,” Danilowicz said in the announcement, made Wednesday at The HUB at Radford. “The Radford Tuition Promise has the potential to affect over half of our current students who file a FAFSA, as well as significant numbers

of prospective students. This will make a difference for families and students with the most need, but also those from middle-class households across Virginia. Radford University is already an affordable institution and it is also a high-quality institution. Students will now have better access than ever to a four-year degree that will accelerate the path to their careers.”

To be eligible for the Radford Tuition Promise, prospective

students must apply and be admitted for fall 2024 at any of the campus locations. There is no application fee. Students must also submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which will be available in December 2024. The person must have less than a \$15,000 Student Aid Index as determined by the FAFSA.

The Radford Tuition Promise is one of two new programs the university has announced recently described as “new

ways for more Virginia students to access the benefits of a Radford University education.”

The Direct Admission program, announced Oct. 18, “removes barriers to access Radford University by eliminating much of the admission process.” Applicants who meet the criteria are automatically offered admission without committee review.

The Radford Tuition Promise is partially funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as

federal funds and gifts to the university. Additional details can be found at www.radford.edu/promise.

Prospective students and their families can also register for virtual information sessions to learn more about this unique opportunity. Prospective students can begin their application process today through the Common App. Nov. 1 is the deadline for Early Action admission and Regular Decision admission applications are due by Feb. 1.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg hires new softball coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Christiansburg High School athletic director Tim Cromer has announced the hiring of Sean Gaynor as the school's new softball coach. Gaynor, who has served as the junior varsity coach in Auburn and with several travel teams, has over 25

years of experience. Christiansburg finished last season with a 12-9 overall mark, including 8-4 in the competitive River Ridge District. Gaynor replaces Robin Boyd, who stepped down after four seasons in the dugout. The school returns seven starters from that team. Gaynor initially made the switch from

baseball to softball six years ago after helping Auburn High School to several district titles on the diamond. He is excited about the opportunity and says CHS has an awesome softball program with one of the best facilities in the state of Virginia. He hopes to promote life skills with the participants.

"Whatever game we play, teach our coach, it should always be about making the athletes better people. I hope to take CHS softball where they have not been before. There is a great group of girls there with a ton of talent," he said. Gaynor hopes to meet with his new player sometime this week. He will remain a teacher at Auburn High School.



Virginia Tech's Elizabeth Kitley is a favorite to repeat as the ACC player of the year. PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Lady Hokies on top of mountain

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The reigning and defending Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) tournament champ, Virginia Tech, was at the center of media days in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Tuesday. Already, the Lady Hokies are as high as eighth in the AP preseason poll and Thursday morning, they were announced as the outright favorite to win the ACC this season. The league's Blue Ribbon Media Panel gave the Hokies 1,116 votes to second place Notre Dame's 1,052.

and you get tremendous players, tremendous people to represent your program, and then people will come out and they will support," he told reporters. "Hokie Nation has some of the best fans in the country. They're very loyal, and they come out and support it, and they even support it off the season has been over. I think it's really hard for those two (Kitley and Amooore) to go to Kroger's and just have a peaceful afternoon or evening because everyone wants a part of them."

run, basketball and off the court," she said. Kitley repeated as ACC Player of the Year last season after another dominant season where she was one of three athletes in the nation to average 18 points and 10.5 rebounds. She recorded 23 double-doubles and scored 20 or more 18 times throughout the season, with her season-high of 29 coming in the final regular season game at Georgia Tech. During her senior season she became Tech's all-time leader in points, field goals, blocks and double-doubles while also eclipsing 1,000 rebounds and 2,000 career points.

tremendous junior season where she burst into the national spotlight after earning ACC Tournament MVP honors and helped lead the Hokies to the Final Four, winning Most Outstanding Player of the Seattle 3 Region. The Aussie averaged 16.3 points per game last season along with 4.9 assists and shot 35% from beyond the arc. She set a program record with 118 triples made and ranks third all-time in that category at VT. The Hokies will play host to High Point in the season opener on Nov. 6 followed by a trip to Charlotte to play Caitlin Clark and Iowa on Nov. 9 in the Ally Tipoff. Tech is back home at Cassell Coliseum on Nov. 16 for the first matchup in school

- The predicted order of finish:
1. Virginia Tech 1116
 2. Notre Dame 1052
 3. North Carolina 973
 4. Louisville 867
 5. Florida State 855
 6. Miami 702
 7. Duke 686
 8. NC State 652
 9. Syracuse 504
 10. Virginia 438
 11. Clemson 395
 12. Georgia Tech 342
 13. Boston College 226
 14. Wake Forest 192

In July, the university announced a contract extension for Brooks that will keep him in Blacksburg through March 2029. Highlights of the contract include a six-year deal totaling \$6.4 million, as well as other enhancements made to support staff salaries, assistant coach salary pool, postseason bonuses and operating budget.

She is the only VT athlete to be named first team All-ACC three times, All-Defensive twice and earn AP All-American recognition twice. Amooore has been described as a prolific scorer and a floor general. She said it's just consistency and confidence. "I think shooting is definitely more mental than anything. I say this all the time, but coming into college I was not a shooter. I was not preferred to shoot a three. Seriously, I think one of my teammates from Australia brought that up a few months ago, and I was reminiscing on that because now I feel not normal when I don't attempt a three in a game. But yeah, just consistent work over the off-season, and I think going into last year's season I was a bit complacent in trying to share the ball a bit more, which is still a huge part of my job, is to make everyone better."

Brooks, who enters his eighth season at Virginia Tech in 2023-24, owns a 155-74 record with the Hokies, including a 62-56 mark in ACC play. He has led the Hokies to the postseason each season that one was contested, including each of the last three NCAA Tournaments. In 2022-23, Brooks' Hokies went 31-5, won the program's first ACC title, earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and reached the Final Four after a 15-game winning streak that began in January. Kitley, who has received back-to-back ACC player of the year awards, said it was 50/50 whether she was coming back for another year. "But the more time that passed in the season and the more I saw how lucky I was to be in the place that I am, it really became clear that another year here would benefit me and be the best for me. And just the opportunity to play with Georgia and to be coached by Coach Brooks and play with Cayla and play in front of Hokie Nation every night, it's so fun and such a great opportunity that I think will benefit me in the long

Three starters from the Hokie's 2022-23 team return: center Elizabeth Kitley, point guard Georgia Amooore and sharpshooter Cayla King. Kitley, the two-time ACC Player of the Year, Kay Yow Scholar Athlete of the Year and AP All-American, and King, one of the most prolific 3-point shooters in program history chose to utilize their fifth year of eligibility, while Amooore is a senior. Tech's roster features eight new student-athletes: five true freshman and three student-athletes with previous Power Five experience in Olivia Summiel (Wake Forest), Rose Micheaux (Minnesota) and Matilda Ekh (Michigan State).

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Virginia Tech men rebounding for new season

Marty Gordon
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Just two years ago, the Virginia Tech men were being heralded as the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) tournament champs. Then last year hit as the Hokies only won 19 games, losing to N.C. State in the tournament's second round.

Hunter Cattoor, Sean Pedulla and forward Mylyjael Poteat joined Coach Mike Young in Charlotte, North Carolina on ACC Media Day earlier this week.

Cattoor is excited about this upcoming season. "We're going to figure it out. We'll be fine. We've been going through kind of the off-season summer working out, and we've got a good group of guys that I'm confident in, and we'll be excited to start off on November 6," Cattoor said.

Pedulla enters his third season at Virginia Tech, the expectations are set for the junior point guard to assert himself as a leader for the Hokies. Transitioning from a freshman to a sophomore in 2022, Pedulla saw his role skyrocket. He became the team's full-time starting point guard and led Tech in minutes per game at 35.6.

Furthermore, Pedulla played and started in all 34 games the Hokies played last season, which was also a team high. While moving into the "PG1" role, Pedulla catapulted his 5.4 points per game and 1.3 assists per game as a freshman to 15.0 and 3.8, respectively, in his sophomore campaign. Heading into 2023, Pedulla will be called upon to advance his game to a higher rung on the ladder.

"I need to be a more complete player. Last year, I had a new role as the starting point guard. This year I'm looking forward to taking control of that role and running with it to the best of my ability," Sean Pedulla said.

With 70 games of experience under his belt in just two seasons, Pedulla is now the second longest-tenured member of Virginia Tech men's basketball. He trails only Cattoor with 119 games played in a Tech uniform. With nine of the 15 rostered players for the upcoming season being underclassmen, Pedulla will be asked to grow as a leader in his junior year.

Of course, there will be some new faces on the floor this year. Mekhi Long, Tyler Nickel and Robbie Beran, all join the Hokies as transfers this season.

See Hokies, page 8

See Rebounding, page 8

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Friday, November 17th at 3 PM
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Hercules Tires, Big South extend agreement

The Big South Conference announced today a multi-year renewal with Hercules Tires as the title sponsor of the Big South Men's and Women's Basketball Championships.

The 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships will be March 6-10 at the Qubein Center on the campus of High Point University in High Point, N.C.

"Our official partnership as title sponsor of the men's and women's championships not only gives Hercules Tires a platform to expose the brand to new audiences during the exciting culmination of the season where the best of the best athletes will get a chance to compete for the championship title, but is also an outstanding opportunity to engage with passionate fans, student-athletes, staff and alumni throughout the season on a grassroots level," said Joshua Simpson, Senior Vice President of Hercules Tires.

Hercules Tires has been the title sponsor of the Big South Basketball Championships since 2020. The 2024 event will begin on Wednesday, March 6 with two first round games. The women's quarterfinals will be held on Thursday, March 7, with the men's quarterfinals slated for Friday, March 8. Both semifinals will be conducted on Saturday, March 9, with the Championship games on Sunday, March 10.

All 16 tournament games will be televised on the ESPN family of networks, with the two championship contests airing on a linear network. Game times and ticket information for the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships will be announced when finalized.

"On behalf of the Big South Conference, I am immensely elated and grateful for the continued partnership with Hercules Tires," added Big South Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery. "The proven alignment

of values and commitment to elevated and holistic student-athlete experiences make this partnership invaluable. We look forward to tremendous opportunities of impact ahead as we welcome Hercules Tires back as the title sponsor of two marquee Conference championship events."

The broad-based, multifaceted extension agreement was negotiated by the Big South's multimedia rights partner, Van Wagner.

Hercules Tires is widely recognized as the industry's premier value brand with a comprehensive selection of passenger, UHP, light truck, medium truck and specialty tires. Since 1952, independent tire dealers and distributors have trusted Hercules to deliver outstanding quality, exceptional support, and unsurpassed value.

Hercules is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Tire Distributors, Inc. American Tire Distributors is one of the largest independent suppliers of tires in the North American replacement tire market. The company offers an unsurpassed breadth and depth of inventory, frequent delivery and value-added services to approximately 80,000 customers across the U.S. and Canada.

Van Wagner, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Van Wagner Group LLC, creates, advises, and sells on behalf of world-class teams, leagues, brands, properties, and colleges. An innovator in the sports and media business, Van Wagner is a global leader in high-impact broadcast visible signage throughout the MLB, NBA, NCAA, and the highest levels of international soccer, sponsorships sales, premium ticketing, college multi-media rights, and in-venue content production at the world's biggest sporting events.

Big South Conference

Golf Digest ranks Pete Dye No. 6

Golf Digest magazine recently listed its 25 greatest college golf courses in the United States, with the Hokies' Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech tabbed sixth.

The magazine's first ranking of America's best college golf courses was published in 1982 in the book, 100 Greatest Golf Courses—And Then Some, by Golf Digest founder and editor-in-chief Bill Davis. The ranking was just five courses deep, the results based on a poll given to collegiate golf coaches. This ranking is based on Best-in-State data and a survey of our course-ranking panel. Four of the five courses listed remain among the country's best, including the top course in this year's ranking, Yale, the Alister MacKenzie-designed Ohio State University Scarlet Course (then No. 1), Stanford and Colgate University's Seven Oaks course, designed by Robert Trent Jones.

Emphasizing variety, the 2023 ranking

favors no architectural style or era. Many of the profession's greatest architects are represented, from early practitioners like MacKenzie (twice), Donald Ross and William Flynn to Tom Doak, Jack Nicklaus, Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner, and Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw.

Pete Dye has four courses on the list, spanning 1965 to 2016, including Tech's home facility. Seven courses, including the top four, were built before the end of World War II. Four others—Jimmie Austin Golf Club at the University of Oklahoma, Duke University Golf Club, Colgate's Seven Oaks, the University of Michigan's Radrick Farms Golf Course—opened between 1950 and 1970. Four were constructed in the 1990s, and 10 were built after 2000.

The Yale Golf Course, located in New Haven, Conn., was this year's top ranked campus course, followed by Taconic Golf Club at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., and University of Michigan Golf Course in Ann Arbor, Mich.

A total of six Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) courses made the list: Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech led the way at No. 6; the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame was ranked 11th; the University of Virginia's Birdwood Golf

Course was ranked 12th; Duke University Golf Club was ranked 17th; University of Louisville Golf Club checked in at No. 21; Florida State's Seminole Legacy Golf Club completed the ACC rankings at 22nd.

The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech has become a prime destination for golfers seeking challenging play in the serene setting of the western Virginia mountains. The course was used for the 2011 NCAA Regional Golf Tournament and received a nearly perfect 4 1/2 star rating from the readers of Golf Digest magazine in their "Best Places to Play" poll for 2011.

Dedicated in 2006, the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech features five sets of tees along 2.5 miles of the scenic and historic New River. The yardage stretches from 5,142 for ladies to 7,665 for tournament play. In 2006, Golf Digest, the nation's leading golf magazine, named the Pete Dye River Course among the "best new remodel" golf courses in the nation. It was ranked fourth among the 170 courses considered, and was the only public, non-resort course in the top five.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Hokie notes: Football schedule changes, baseball fall action helps Micah's Backpack

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnews.com

Virginia Tech has announced a change in a future football opponent. A home game against state-foe James Madison had been scheduled for the 2025 season but is now moved to 2026.

Wofford will replace the Dukes on the 2025 slate. The Hokies and Dukes were scheduled to meet on Sept. 20, 2025 but will now play on Sept. 26, 2026.

"We appreciate the James Madison football program's flexibility in accommodating a new trip to Blacksburg in 2026 and are pleased to welcome Wofford back during the 2025 season," said Babcock. "Keeping both home

dates on our schedule was a priority and we are eager to continue providing great Lane Stadium experiences to Hokie Nation during the seasons to come."

The Hokies only meeting with Wofford took place on Sept. 17, 2022, a 27-7 Tech win in Blacksburg. Virginia Tech and JMU have played seven times previously, with the last meeting in Blacksburg in 2010. The Hokies own a 6-1 advantage in the series.

The 2024 schedule includes a visit to Vanderbilt. In 2025, the Hokies will play South Carolina at a neutral site, Atlanta, Ga., and a Vandy trip to Blacksburg. Year 2026 will include contests against VMI and Maryland.

Baseball intra squad

Looking ahead to a full, fun home

weekend of Virginia Tech baseball in the New River Valley, head coach John Szefc is excited to welcome everyone to share in the program at events surrounding the Hokies' annual intrasquad Fall World Series, this weekend.

Virginia Tech will split its roster into two sides, Maroon and Orange, during its three-game fall finale at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park. First pitch times are currently scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday, 4 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Entry to English Field is free to all fans while ballpark seating is general admission.

Throughout the series, fans are encouraged to participate in the Hokies' food drive in support of

Micah's Backpack, a local volunteer organization that strives to provide direct food assistance to Blacksburg students who are experiencing food insecurity. All food and/or donations are accepted, although preferred food items include canned pasta, canned soup, canned beanie weenies, canned tuna, canned chicken, individual mac and cheese cups, peanut butter, 100% juice boxes, milk boxes, individual oatmeal, canned veggies, fruit cups (in juice or lite syrup) and individual wrapped snacks.

Additionally, at the conclusion of Sunday's Fall World Series action, members of the Virginia Tech baseball team will host a free, one-hour youth clinic from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Rebounding

from page 7

Long comes to Blacksburg after three seasons at Old Dominion. He played his freshman season at Rhode Island. As a senior for the Monarchs, Long averaged 10.7 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. The Bryans Road, Md., native registered 11 double-doubles on the season, including nine in Sun Belt play to lead the league.

The 6-foot-7 wing started in 29 of ODU's 30 games in 2022-23. Long chalked up 10 points and 11 rebounds in the Monarchs' 75-71 loss to the Hokies on Nov. 17. The fifth-year standout has amassed 770 points, 613 rebounds and 100 assists in his career.

Nickel, a former four-star recruit out of high school, returns to the Commonwealth after spending his freshman season at ACC foe North Carolina. As a freshman for the Tar Heels, Nickel averaged 2.1 points in 25 games. He scored a season-high 16

points (all in the second half) vs. The Citadel. Nickel tallied eight points in a season-high 25 minutes against the Hokies on Dec. 4.

The Harrisonburg native set the Virginia High School League scoring record of 2,909 points in 102 career games at East Rockingham. He was the 2022 VHSL Class AA Player of the Year, a four-time region and district player of the year and four-time first-team all-state, all-region and all-district.

Nickel led East Rockingham to an 87-15 record and state tournament appearances each year, with runner-up finishes in 2020 and 2022. He became the first player from East Rockingham to play at a Division I school.

Beran, who was recruited by each member of Tech's current coaching staff out of high school, will play his fifth year for the Hokies after four seasons at Northwestern. The Richmond, Va., native

started 100 of his 120 career games with the Wildcats, while racking up 744 career points and 454 career rebounds.

Coming off a 15-16 record in 2021-22, Beran spurred Northwestern to an impressive turnaround last season, going 22-12 and advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament. As a senior, Beran averaged 7.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.

Beran is a 41.2% shooter from the floor in his career, including a 36.1% clip from beyond the arc. Nearly 50% of his career field goal attempts are from long range.

As previously announced, Tech will compete in the Hall of Fame Series vs. South Carolina on Nov. 10 at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C. The Hokies return home for a pair of games against Campbell (Nov. 15) and Wofford (Nov. 19), the latter marks the first time Young will face his previous squad as Tech's head coach. Young spent 17 seasons

in Spartanburg, S.C., leading the Terriers to five NCAA tournaments and five Southern Conference tournament titles.

Tech then makes its return to Orlando, Fla., for the ESPN Events Invitational (Nov. 23-26) inside State Farm Field House.

From there, VT will swing up to Auburn, Ala., to square off with the Tigers in the inaugural ACC/SEC Challenge on Nov. 29. Tech closes out its non-conference slate with three home games against Valparaiso (Dec. 9), Vermont (Dec. 16) and American (Dec. 21).

As part of the ACC schedule, the Hokies will welcome Boston College, Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Miami, Notre Dame, Virginia and Wake Forest to Cassell Coliseum. On the road, Tech will clash with Florida State, Louisville, Miami, North Carolina, NC State, Notre Dame, Pitt, Syracuse, Virginia and Wake Forest.

You can see the Hokies in action on Monday, Nov. 6 when they take on Coppin State 8 p.m. ET at Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum.

Hokies

from page 7

history with Houston Christian and again on Nov. 20 to face UNC Greensboro for the first time since 2008.

Thanksgiving week, the Hokies will travel to the tropics to take on Kansas and Tulane in the Cayman Islands Classic.

In the first edition of the ACC-SEC Challenge on Nov. 30, Brooks and the Hokies will travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for a meeting with the reigning national champions, LSU. The two met in the national semifinals in March with the Tigers winning a back-and-forth contest 79-72.



Derek ROUNTREE

For School Board District E



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