

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center names new executive director

By **CATHY KUEHNER**
The Winchester Star

BOYCE — Winchester resident Chris Scott has been named the new executive director of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center in Clarke County.

Scott, 46, was selected after a nearly five-month regional search and selection process, according to a news release from the not-for-profit wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, education and research center.

“We are all connected on this planet, and we have a responsibility for one another,” Scott says in the release. “Whether wildlife or humans, all are deserving of care and protection.”

Scott has more than 25 years



Chris Scott

of experience in the nonprofit sector. Most recently he was the executive director of Help With Housing Inc. Scott was previously the executive director of the American Red Cross Top of Virginia Chapter in Winchester until 2015 and executive director of a Highland County organization for at-risk youth.

He serves on the Habitat for Humanity of Winchester-Fredrick-Clarke Board of Directors.

Scott earned a master of divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and is working on a doctoral degree from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Earlier in May, the Blue

See **Director**, Page **B2**

Director

from **Page B1**

Ridge Wildlife Center appointed four new members to its 11-member Board of Directors. New board members are Susan Galbraith and Judy Landes, of Frederick County; Russell McKelway, of Clarke County; and Timothy Bates, of Loudoun County.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is a full-service, licensed veterinary hospital with surgery and X-ray rooms. It is one of only three licensed wildlife centers in the state and the only one in Northern Virginia.

In an average year, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center staff care for more than 2,000 animals and release as many as possible back into the areas where they were found.

Last year, the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center opened a spacious two-story, 8,700-square-foot veterinary, rehabilitation and education facility after operating out of an 800-square-foot house for the better part of 16 years.

The new building has separate rooms for mammals, raptors, reptiles, birds

and waterfowl.

Located off Tilthammer Mill Road, the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is on the same 1,000-acre property owned by the Burwell-Van Lennep Trust where the original center stood.

The facility also includes outdoor cages for large birds and a circular flight cage where they can regain their strength before being released.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center hosts educational programs in the center and takes its wildlife ambassadors to schools and other offsite locations. The center also hosts summer Wildlife Discovery camps.

The facility is focused on ensuring the future of native wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation, education and research.



For more information about the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, visit blueridgewildlifectr.org. Follow Blue Ridge Wildlife Center on Facebook.

– Contact Cathy Kuehner at ckuehner@winchesterstar.com