



# NEWS JOURNAL

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## Ingles Castle-La Riviere: a historic landmark that needs the community's help



Built in 1892 by Captain "Billy" Williams Ingles along the New River in west end Radford, the architectural wonder is a Radford treasure.

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

The story of Mary Draper Ingles is well known by many in the New River Valley region.

She was taken by Native Americans along with her two sons after the Draper Meadow Massacre, escaped, and returned home on foot over many hundreds of miles, barely surviving her journey.

What many may not know is that her descendant, Captain "Billy" William Ingles, built an extraordinary home in 1892 along the New River in Radford that still stands today. However, this home, with its astounding curved interior walls, beautiful fireplaces, grand staircases, and unique exterior architecture, needs the community's help.

A.C. and Lucy Wilson are currently the owners of the Scots-Irish styled home, along with another historic landmark in Radford called "The Harvey House". Wilson is also a descendant of the Ingles family, and says that house has stayed mostly unaltered in 100+ years. Only required maintenance and work has been done. Wilson, having a love of history and a special connection to the Radford area, bought the house. He bought more than a house though, he bought a trip back in time.

The incredible courage and determination Mary Draper Ingles showed in returning home was just the beginning, according to Wilson.

"Mary Ingles, after she returned from captivity, she and her husband got that ferry going and he didn't live but only ten more years and then she was on her own, running the ferry which, she did and lived till 1815, after she returned in 1755," Wilson said. "She was on her own all those years and lived in a cabin on the river down there because of she was afraid of another Indian attack and just loved the security of a log cabin, but she got on they say about 900,000 people across the New River at Ingles Ferry in her time, and you know, some of the original buildings are over there across the river."

Other individuals, also deeply impacted and touched by the beautiful home and the family's story, have taken up the cause to help bring the home back to its original grandeur. One of whom is Judith Ayers.

"I have gone in on the coattails of all these important people," Ayers said. "To me, I am enthralled by what is there."

Ayers' nephew, Joe Caldwell, and his wife Angela Caldwell have also become involved in protecting the home and its history. Both teachers in the area have participated in fundraising events to raise money for the restoration of the home. However, the priority currently is the roof.

The slate roof is in desperate need of repair and the costs are significant, but the importance of saving this home is even more substantial.

Some may also not know that famous architects

### Help us "ReCrown" the Castle



Ingles Castle, a landmark and treasure in Radford, Virginia, has weathered many storms over the years. Unfortunately, the roof of this historic building has sustained significant damage and is in desperate need of repair. This beautiful castle, brimming with history and countless stories, is calling out for help.

Ingles Castle has been a symbol of our community, hosting numerous events and tours that brought our community together and helped us delve into our shared past. Now, it's our turn to give back and ensure this important piece of local heritage continues to stand tall and proud for generations to come.

The repair costs are substantial, and we're reaching out to you, our community and beyond, to help us raise the necessary funds. Every donation, regardless of size, brings us one step closer to preserving this historic gem. Your support will not only help restore the roof but also ensure the castle continues to be a place of learning, exploration, and community bonding.

Your contribution to the "Raise the Roof" fund will be much more than a donation - it's your personal stamp in the history of Ingles Castle.

Let's come together and help restore the glory of Ingles Castle. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to preserving our shared history. For more information scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera or go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/l/raise-the-roof-historical-preservation-ingles>



PHOTOS COURTESY OF A.C. WILSON

### Ingles Castle, "La Riviere," is looking for the community's help to put a new roof on the historical landmark.

like Stanford White and Frank Miles Day constructed some of the buildings in the city of Radford, Wilson said.

Keeping the home available for the next generation to enjoy and know the history of our community is what Wilson is hoping for.

"I didn't want to see it destroyed for a parking lot," Wilson said.

A crowdfunding page has also been established to help "ReCrown" the Castle. A QR code can be accessed for monetary donations, or interested parties can visit the website at [www.gofundme.com/l/raise-the-roof-historical-preservation-ingles](http://www.gofundme.com/l/raise-the-roof-historical-preservation-ingles) to make donations toward the roof repairs needed.

## Radford University announces launch of provisional to professional pathway K-12 teachers in Virginia



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

RADFORD - To create a convenient way for Virginia teachers with provisional licensure to earn full credentials, Radford University launched the Provisional to Professional Pathway project Dec. 1.

Through a collaborative partnership between Radford's College of Education and Human Development and the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab, the Provisional to Professional Pathway allows provisionally licensed teachers to complete Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) professional studies licensure requirements in as quickly as one year. Provisionally licensed teachers can benefit from the online and self-paced courses, allowing professionals to continue their work in the classroom

while building credentials.

"We are proud to support our K-12 school division partners in developing and retaining excellent teachers for the Commonwealth of Virginia's children," said Tamara Wallace, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "Through our Provisional to Professional Pathway, provisionally licensed teachers can attain their goals of full teacher licensure in a format that is conducive to their busy lives as working professionals and with the resources and support needed to ensure their success."

"This innovative approach builds upon Radford University's 113-year history of preparing educators by empowering teachers for the future with research-based classroom skills," said Matthew

Dunleavy, Ph.D., executive director of the IMPACT Lab. "Our faculty have decades of classroom experience and expertise delivered directly to teachers online, so they can continue serving their students in their communities."

Teachers who progress through the Provisional to Professional Pathway will earn graduate-level credits while experiencing expertly designed modules complete with engaging multimedia elements and a rich library of resources that will improve their effectiveness on the job. In addition, these courses are transferrable to Radford University's Master of Education Program.

The Provisional to Professional Pathway project is part of Radford University's commitment to addressing teacher shortages throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. VDOE's Staffing and Vacancy Report showed 3,573 teacher vacancies statewide for the 2022-23 school year. By giving individuals with a bachelor's degree who have been hired by a school division the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills, the Provisional to Professional Pathway supports high quality educators

for K-12 schools across the state.

The Provisional to Professional Pathway will launch in southwest Virginia through a strategic partnership with Pulaski County Public Schools.

Interested teachers and school divisions can learn more about this project or enroll at the Provisional to Professional Pathway website.

The Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab at Radford University delivers online, self-paced, competency-based education (CBE) in high-demand workforce areas throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and several neighboring states. The IMPACT Lab's CBE approach focuses on teaching specific job-related skills needed to complete a critical task within the workplace and is built upon Radford University's established and award-winning programs.

The IMPACT Lab, which opened on Oct. 1, 2017, established Radford University as the first Virginia four-year public institution to offer CBE certificates in cybersecurity and geospatial intelligence.

Patrick Reed for Radford University

## NRCC Concert Series to hold free concert this Saturday, Dec. 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

### Nobody's Business

The music of Mountain Blessings and Nobody's Business will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat., Dec. 9.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

Mountain Blessings is a bluegrass and bluegrass gospel band stationed out of Mount Airy, N.C. and

surrounding towns. The band plays mostly classic bluegrass such as Flatt and Scruggs, Reno and Smiley, and many more, while including a couple of newer artists such as LRB and Balsam Range. Mountain Blessings members say they came up with the band name because they all grew up on a mountain, and God gave them the ability to play. The band includes Travis Watts, banjo; Brad Wood, mandolin; Nevaeh Coffee, bass; and Elijah Bulman, guitar. Grammy-winning fiddle player, Hunter Berry, will be joining the band for the December concert.

Nobody's Business is an old-time band from

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

### Mackenzie Hayden

## Healthcare administration student Mackenzie Hayden awarded Upsilon Phi Delta Scholarship

Mackenzie Hayden's connections to Radford University are very well established, span roughly a generation and involve multiple members of her family.

Her mother is a Radford alumna from the class of '95, and her father earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Radford in '93 and

'95, respectively. In fact, Hayden says her parents met during their time attending Radford, so without their Highlander experience, she might not be here at all!

That's not all, however. Hayden's Radford roots go even deeper, with

See Hayden, page 2

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, Dec. 7:

### American Legion meeting

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

## Friday, Dec. 8:

### Christmas on Main in Downtown Christiansburg

Join The Town of Christiansburg starting at 5 p.m. for Christmas at the Market featuring local crafters and other vendors, followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade. The Tree Lighting Ceremony with the mayor will take place at Town Square at roughly 6:50 p.m., with the Christmas Parade starting at 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 9:

### NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

## Monday, Dec. 11:

### 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](http://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, Dec. 12:

### 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 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.

## Sunday, Dec. 17:

### Luminary display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminary display will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Blacksburg (Hethwood). Rain date is Monday, Dec. 18.

## On-going:

### Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

Deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to [www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund](http://www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund) and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more. Stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. Questions, contact [stormwater@blacksburg.gov](mailto:stormwater@blacksburg.gov) or call 540-443-1354.

### Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the plan. Amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maeve Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or [CompPlan@blacksburg.gov](mailto:CompPlan@blacksburg.gov), with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

### 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. Go to the Christmas Store website at [www.mcchristmasstore.org](http://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.

## NRCC

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

### Mountain Blessings

the Grayson Highlands mountain region of Southwest Virginia where the state meets North Carolina and Tennessee. The band is steeped in the traditions of rural old-time mountain music that have been passed down through generations in this unique area of the Blue Ridge mountains. All of the band members have spent their lives playing, performing and teaching traditional mountain music. Nobody's Business shows feature a diverse and entertaining collection of hard driving fiddle/banjo tunes, mountain ballads, old time sacred songs and square dance music. The band includes Jackson Cunningham, guitar and mandolin; Trevor McKenzie, fiddle; Corbin Hayslett, banjo; and Jesse Morris, bass.

Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCKY, LLC – Fazoli's,

Dublin; Deanie Hall – State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee's Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, please contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit [www.nr.edu/concerts](http://www.nr.edu/concerts).

## Hayden

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her brother graduating in '21 and her father returning to Radford five years ago as an employee, currently working in the Dean of Students office.

"When it came to where I would go to school," Hayden says, "Radford University just felt right."

Hayden says she did spend some time looking at various schools when she was making her college decision, and that the choice was difficult, but that she ultimately knew she wanted something small that catered to students. Enter Radford University Carilion (RUC).

"I was really attracted to RUC's size and the student-focused approach," she recalls. "I also was drawn to RUC because of the 100% online programs in the public health and healthcare leadership department. That structure suited me better."

While Hayden had considered a career as a physician when she was in high school, she soon learned that path wasn't right for her. But she still wanted to be involved in healthcare somehow. As she explored her options, she discovered healthcare administration.

The four-year Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration program at RUC provides a broad base of knowledge and skills to prepare students with general analytical, communication and management competencies for professional roles in healthcare management. This program prepares graduates to work within the fundamental "business" aspects of healthcare.

"Through this degree, I'm able to combine my love for the medical field and my intrinsic need to be a leader," Hayden says. "What I love most about healthcare administration is the ability to improve patient care without being directly involved in it. I also respect the level of teamwork needed to have a successful organization and to achieve patient care initiatives."

As part of her curriculum,

Hayden is currently participating in a medical practice internship with Carilion Children's, shadowing Rachel Smith, the practice manager at Carilion Children's Professional Network.

"The ability to experience the teamwork and communication that is needed on a daily basis to run a medical practice is unmatched," she says of the experience. "I enjoy meeting new patients and creating relationships with the staff. Every day is new and exciting."

While Hayden's enthusiasm for her program is routinely recognized at Radford, she is now beginning to earn accolades externally. Recently, the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) named her a 2023 Upsilon Phi Delta Society Scholarship recipient.

The goal of the Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society is to encourage interest in academic preparation, promote activity that will elevate the standards, ideals, competence and ethics of inductees, and recognize academic achievement and outstanding contributions to the profession. The UPD Scholarship Program was established in 2014 to further the goals and mission of the honor society and recognize students for academic excellence.

AUPHA, the organization that administers the scholarship, supports the education of emerging leaders in the healthcare field — a description that fits Hayden perfectly.

"Over the course of my professional education at RUC, I have worked incredibly hard," she says. "Each semester, class and assignment is an opportunity for me to prove to myself that I am capable of achieving my goals. When I received the scholarship, I felt as though my hard work was being acknowledged, and it will help me achieve everything I dream of!"

Mark Lambert for Radford University

## Lisa Sprinkel named Vice President of Carilion Mental Health

Lisa Sprinkel, vice president of Carilion Clinic Home Health and Hospice, has been selected to also serve as vice president of Carilion Mental Health.

She will lead the Mental Health team with dyad partner and Carilion Mental Health Chair Robert Trestman, MD, PhD. Sprinkel has served as interim vice president since May 1.

Sprinkel has held a variety of clinical and leadership positions during her tenure with Carilion and has led the Home Health and Hospice department for 17 years.

She began her nursing career as a diploma graduate from Roanoke

Memorial Hospital's School of Professional Nursing, received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Mary Baldwin University and earned a master's degree in nursing administration from Jefferson College of Health Sciences.

Sprinkel has been instrumental in influencing the delivery of home medical services and served on the Governor's Task Force on Long Term Care. She is also an active member and participant in several nonprofit boards in the region, extending Carilion's mission into the communities it serves.

Carilion Clinic



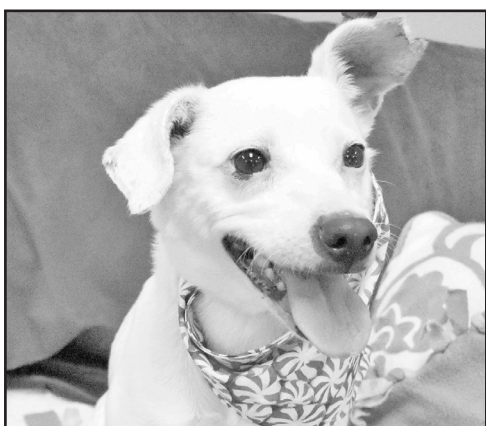
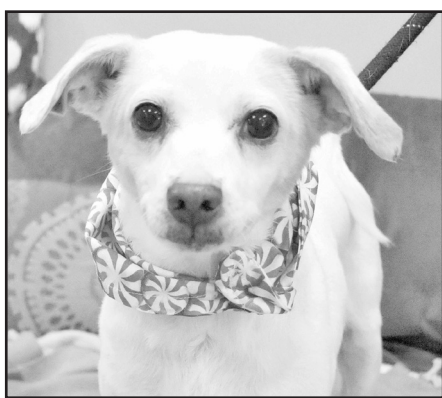
Lisa Sprinkel

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARILION CLINIC

# PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

*Meet Puddin! She is a sweet gal with a cuddly personality. She greets happily and enjoys being petted. Her love for affection will melt your heart, so you can be assured that she will never desert you. Visit the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her! Ideally, Puddin would go to the same home as her pal, Pie.*



*Pie is a vibrant gal, who is ready to give a slice of her love to everyone she meets! She has an energetic personality, but she would gladly settle down for a spot on your lap and a cuddle. She knows basic commands and would likely learn more if treats were involved. Pie and Puddin prefer to go to the same home.*

# Old Pros Big Band Orchestra presents holiday music concert

The Old Pros Big Band Orchestra of New River Community College will present holiday music Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg Mall.

Admission is free, and donations will be accepted to the NRCC Educational Foundation to support the band. The NRCC Educational Foundation assists New River Community College in the endowment and distribution of scholarship funds, the purchase of equipment and furnishings, and the financial support of academic and community enrichment programs, such as the Old Pros.

Under the direction of Dean Chiapetto, the band plays music from

the heyday of the Big Band Era as well as today's modern sounds. The Old Pros are celebrating their 50th year. Over the years, the band has performed for events and groups including Gov. John Dalton's Inaugural Ball, NRV Air Show, The Homestead Resort, Virginia Lions Club Convention, NRCC Graduation and many more. The band's members include professionals, small business owners, teachers, retirees and students with varied musical backgrounds.

For more information about the Old Pros and to view their concert schedule, visit [www.nr.edu/oldpros/](http://www.nr.edu/oldpros/).

*Submitted by New River Community College*

# OBITUARY

## Slusser, Martha Sue

Martha Sue Slusser, 77, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

She was born in Montgomery Co. on Feb. 14, 1946 to the late Wilbur and Nellie Duncan Slusser. She was

also preceded in death by a brother, Harry Slusser. She is survived by her brother, Gerald D. Slusser.

Graveside service will be conducted Wednesday, Dec. 6,

2023 at 2 p.m. in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1-1:45 p.m. Wednesday at the McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

# New Hokie-themed semi-truck helps drive the Sharing the Road program forward

A team from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute revived a 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck in Hokie fashion.

The eight pylons complete the front grille of the 1995 VTTI Peterbilt truck. Photo by Jacob Levin for Virginia Tech. Originally used just for research, the truck will now be the first fully dedicated truck for the institute's Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program.

"I am honored to have been able to help with the restoration of this classic American icon to represent this outreach program and the university," said Mark Golusky, the team leader: field operations. "The new purpose of this truck fits perfectly into our university motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), that it serves to help teach the public on safe driving habits while driving around large vehicles."

The program itself is expanding in exciting ways. During the next year, it will be offered in 150 new schools and begin to incorporate virtual components.

Since 2017, the Sharing the Road team has conducted safety demonstrations for over 28,000 students in six states and has multiple new states planned for the near future. Along with teaching strategies for safely interacting with large trucks, the program provides participants the opportunity to see a semi-truck up close and experience the large blind spots from a driver's seat.

The Peterbilt will not only fill that role, but will do so while adorned with multiple Virginia Tech elements including: A representation of the Pylons above War Memorial Chapel on the front grille; Ut Prosim (That I May

Serve) written at the top of the wind deflector; a Chicago maroon and burnt orange paint scheme; homage to Virginia Tech's military history; orange stitching on black leather seats; orange seatbelts, dashboard, and gearshift; a HokieBird hood ornament; and a HokieBird gobble air horn.

"We are excited to grow this important program to reach more drivers across the United States, especially with our revived Peterbilt," said Matt Camden, team leader for the institute's Research to Practice and Outreach group. "Our goal is to connect with schools and communities in each state to share life-saving strategies for sharing the road with large trucks."

The 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck with Virginia Tech will serve as the first fully dedicated truck for the Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program. Photo by Jacob Levin for Virginia Tech. The truck is just one of the significant changes coming to the program during the 2023-24 academic year.

With \$1.3 million in funding through four grants, the program will expand to an additional 150 schools in multiple states. The funding also supported the purchase of 10 virtual reality headsets that will allow people unable to climb into the driver's seat of the tractor-trailer to still experience the life-saving demonstration, which is a critical component as the program continues to expand beyond just high school-age participants. The grants come from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Delaware Department of Transportation.



PHOTO BY JACOB LEVIN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**The 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck with Virginia Tech will serve as the first fully dedicated truck for the Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program. The eight pylons complete the front grille of the 1995 VTTI Peterbilt truck.**

"This program provides an excellent opportunity not only for vulnerable road users, but for drivers of all ages to learn how to safely navigate our many roadways, which we share on an everyday basis with these large trucks," said Scott Tidwell, the institute's senior field research technician. "It is a very rewarding experience to put our research to practice and provide the general public with these tips and strategies that can save their lives."

The Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program was recently featured on "Good Morning America" and Univision

ahead of the busy holiday travel season to help educate travelers on the dangers of passing large trucks. It also was featured on "Curious Conversations," a Virginia Tech podcast series of free-flowing conversations with Virginia Tech researchers that take place at the intersection of world-class research and everyday life.

For more information or to schedule a visit with the 1995 Hokie Peterbilt, email [sharingtheroad@vtti.vt.edu](mailto:sharingtheroad@vtti.vt.edu) or visit the website.

*Virginia Tech*

# Montgomery Museum of Art and History receives 2023 Virginia Innovation Award for "The Art of Happiness"



PHOTO BY CHARLIE WHITESCARVER

**(Left) Director of the Montgomery Museum of Art and History Casey Jenkins and (right) CEO of LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Lauren Dudley receive the 2023 Virginia Innovation Award.**

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History's "Art of Happiness" program not only brings awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing to the region, but also provides a place where individuals can connect with art on a deeper level.

The program, in cooperation with LewisGale Regional Health System, received the 2023 Virginia Innovation Award from the Virginia Association of Museums.

"This is one we're really happy, really proud about this," said Montgomery Museum of Art and History Director Casey Jenkins. "It takes museum spaces, resources, and exhibits and pairs that with mental health; raising awareness to emotional health and mental health, and doing so in a way that provides a nontraditional setting for folks to participate in self-help coping strategies for things like anxiety or depression."

The program series will be held on the

first and second Thursday of each month, December through February from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

Shelby Wynn, a registered art therapist and licensed professional counselor will lead the sessions. Session topics include Found Poetry, Mindfulness Clay Sculpting, and Visual Music and Painting.

"I am very excited to be partnering with the Montgomery Museum for the next few months," Wynn said. "Art is such an integral part of mental health — be it fine art, movement, or music — and it is inspiring to have an organization such as the museum find it important to bridge the gap in mental health awareness. I am honored to be a part of something so innovative."

For more information on this program series and to register, visit <https://montgomerymuseum.org/arttherapy>.

Jenkins also presented information on the facility's current economic status, upcoming events and capital projects during the Nov. 27 Montgomery County

Board of Supervisors' meeting.

A revised mission statement and a vision for the future of the museum as a premier cultural center is a highlight for the organization.

Several art exhibits, receptions, and major community special events have brought visitors to the region as well as involving residents in the museum's offerings. At the time of the presentation, there have been 4600 visitors this year, compared to 4300 visitors in 2022, Jenkins said.

"That was our first year in the new building," Jenkins said. "That was a huge jump from 2021, when we made the transition from our old site at Peppers Street to the new building, going from 1325 to 4300 [square feet]."

The operating budget has seen continuous growth and Jenkins said the museum is hoping to see \$300,000 in their budget in 2024.

Some events to look forward to in the coming year for the museum were also shared at the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

The ArtsNRV Market will be happening on June 7 and 8 and brings juried artists and artisans from around the region. Heritage Day 2024 is set for the fourth Saturday in August, giving visitors and residents an opportunity to see and experience culture from the region. Cultural Crossroads will happen in Fall 2024 for the third year at the Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg, Virginia, and is a culmination of various heritage music from African American, European, and Native American beginnings that culminated in leading to Appalachian Bluegrass sounds.

Most exciting is the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts visit to the New River Valley.

"The state-of-the-art institution in Richmond will be traveling with its ginormous semi-truck, it'll park in our back parking, so it'll be quite a spectacle," Jenkins said.

Additionally, the Montgomery County Junior Appalachian Musicians program will be returning through the efforts of

the Museum. School-age children from around the County will be taught four different instruments. This was a previous program that was halted by the pandemic in 2020.

It has been over a year and a half since fundraising began for the museum, according to Jenkins. A cash amount of 1.1 million has been raised to date. In Phase 2, raising the money for an elevator and the HVAC system is now a priority.

"It's important to know that our collection, you know, that represents all of Montgomery County history is really the heartbeat of telling our story here for Montgomery County; Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Virginia Tech," Jenkins said. "If we can't properly care for those artifacts, then we can't properly tell the stories and the heritage that Montgomery County has to offer, which as we know is quite a lot."

Jenkins also shared that there are over 7,000 artifacts in their collection that need to be cared for.

Currently, the museum has raised \$225,000, but it is a very costly process to replace the HVAC system.

Montgomery County will celebrate their 250-year anniversary in 2026. With more than half of money raised for the capital projects already, a funding request was made from the County for \$100,000. Additional funds will be also requested from local town Councils in Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

In addition, Jenkins said that the Virginia Association of Museums will conduct their conference in 2025 in Montgomery County, bringing in large crowds to the area.

Supervisors spoke in support of finding a one-time fund opportunity to help in the preservation of the artifacts while looking to the future of the community.

Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski expressed that he would like to see the Towns also contribute to the preservation of history in the museum but would also be in support of a one-time allocation of monies to the museum's capital projects as laid out in the presentation.

# OPINION

## Addressing the underlying problems related to gun violence is important

November 30th was a significant date for the Virginia General Assembly, as that was the deadline for lawmakers to submit our legislative proposals to be considered during the 2024 legislative session in Richmond. While many of these pieces of legislation are in the early stages of drafting, some bills have already been filed and can be viewed on Virginia's Legislative Information System (LIS) website. As expected, some of the early submissions by the new Democratic majority seek to restrict 2nd Amendment rights and criminalize the ownership of popular firearms used for home defense, hunting, or just plain old "plinking". One such piece of legislation is House Bill 2.

House Bill 2 represents the usual attempt by those on the left to criminalize lawful and responsible ownership of so-called "assault firearms". What this bill does is assign a class 1 misdemeanor not only to those who buy or sell a firearm identified as an "assault weapon", but also to those who merely possess these firearms. Under the definition of the bill, any semi-automatic centerfire rifle (or pistol) with a magazine capacity in excess of 10 rounds is considered an "assault weapon". The bill goes on to describe functions, features, and magazine-

styles that are impermissible should it become law. It captures many rifles – and perhaps an even greater number of handguns – that are commonly owned by Virginia residents for self-defense. A semi-automatic hunting rifle with a detachable magazine and a muzzle compensator – not uncommon in hunting – would be made illegal. It may even mean that your child or grandchild's .22 caliber rifle, long-used to promote and teach safe firearm handling and usage, could be determined to be illegal simply based on the style of the firearm's magazine.

In my opinion, this is an example of government overreach and does not do anything to solve the underlying problems relating to the prevalence of gun violence. We should not be making criminals out of responsible and law-abiding Virginians who seek to mind their own business, protect their families, and enjoy the benefits that come with target practice. We should be promoting the safe storage of firearms so they are away from the hands of minors, and I have submitted a bill this year to expand the program in which tax credits are offered to those who purchase a gun safe. And we should continue to teach our children firearm safety and the responsibility that comes with

gun ownership, as many of our role models did for us as children. And finally, we should be focusing on mental and behavioral health treatment that lessens the prevalence of violence in our communities, whether perpetrated with a firearm or not. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the General Assembly to tackle these important issues while ensuring that we don't criminalize otherwise law-abiding Virginians. Be on the lookout for future columns where I'll be sharing my 2024 legislative priorities!

It is my honor to represent you in Richmond, and I want you to be fully informed what your government is doing for you. As the Delegate representing the 12th District (soon to be the 42nd District due to redistricting), your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

- Delegate Jason Ballard

## Average Virginia gas prices unchanged in last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia are unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.11/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 10.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 12.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 4.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.18 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.70/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.59/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.70/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.21/g today. The national average is down 18.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 14.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the

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

- December 4, 2022: \$3.23/g (U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)
- December 4, 2021: \$3.22/g (U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)
- December 4, 2020: \$2.07/g (U.S. Average: \$2.16/g)
- December 4, 2019: \$2.34/g (U.S. Average: \$2.61/g)
- December 4, 2018: \$2.30/g (U.S. Average: \$2.44/g)
- December 4, 2017: \$2.30/g (U.S. Average: \$2.47/g)
- December 4, 2016: \$2.06/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)
- December 4, 2015: \$1.88/g (U.S. Average: \$2.04/g)
- December 4, 2014: \$2.57/g (U.S. Average: \$2.72/g)
- December 4, 2013: \$3.21/g (U.S. Average: \$3.24/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:  
Roanoke- \$3.05/g, unchanged from last week's \$3.05/g.

Richmond- \$3.07/g, up 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.06/g.

West Virginia- \$3.20/g, up 5.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.14/g.

"We've barely eked out a drop in the national average over the last week, extending the streak to 11 straight weeks of decline, even as some states have seen prices jump, while others have seen prices continue to inch lower. Motorists can blame the OPEC+ meeting for causing oil to jump early last week and then plummet late last week for the volatility in gas prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The good news is that as the dust settled, OPEC+ agreed to barely move the needle, deepening their production cuts by an additional 900,000 barrels per day in 2024, with Saudi Arabia extending their own million barrel per day cut through March. However, that wasn't enough to offset concerns of falling global demand, which pushed oil back down to below \$73 in Sunday night trading, giving hope that the national average still could fall to \$2.99/gal by the end of the year."

Submitted by GasBuddy

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. 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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## AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: What to know before your next web search

Most of us do it several times a day. We have a question, need a phone number or are looking for a website, so we open a search engine and type in our request. What happens next is becoming more and more dangerous.

To steer clear of impostor scams, a widely recommended precaution is to avoid clicking on links or dialing numbers provided in emails or texts. Instead, contact the company or agency using a verified website or phone number. Beware however that even web search results can be manipulated.

The easiest way that scammers do this is with advertising dollars. By paying to promote their fake websites that mimic legitimate sites, a criminal can jump to the top of your web search results. Complicating matters, some app-based companies lack customer service numbers, so web searches only bring back malicious phone numbers.

This doesn't mean you can't trust web searches, just search carefully. Always look closely at the top results to make sure that they are what you are looking for

before clicking. You may also want to avoid clicking on links that are advertisement or "sponsored." Not all promoted links are fake, but it's important to understand that promoted web ads are a tactic of scammers.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork, or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Submitted by AARP Virginia

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Chop up  
5. Ones who utilize  
10. Sings with closed lips  
14. South American hummingbird  
15. Serves as a coxswain  
16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice  
17. Spur  
18. Senile  
19. Tanzanian people  
20. Cruel  
22. Boxing's "GOAT"  
23. Yokels  
24. London soccer team  
27. Chinese chess piece  
30. Supervises flying  
31. 007's creator  
32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)  
35. A spider makes one  
37. Liquefied natural gas  
38. Opaque gem  
39. Brazilian palm  
40. Periodical (slang)

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Not low  
2. Small water buffalo  
3. A mark left behind  
4. Archaic form of have  
5. Fiddler crabs  
6. Popular Hyundai sedan  
7. Deport  
8. Making over  
9. Midway between south and southeast  
10. Arabic masculine name  
11. Type of acid  
12. Popular 1980s Cher film  
13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools  
21. Chinese city  
23. "Star Wars" character Solo  
25. The bill in a restaurant  
26. Old, ugly witch  
27. Burn with a hot liquid  
28. To claim or demand  
29. "A Doll's House" playwright  
32. Involuntary muscular contraction  
33. Pea stems (British)

**CLUES ACROSS**  
34. Double or multiple fold  
36. No longer is  
37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)  
38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru  
40. Cloth or fabric  
41. Flanks  
43. Disfigure  
44. Angry  
46. Baltic coast peninsula  
47. Large, flightless birds  
49. Plants of the lily family  
50. Medieval Norwegian language  
51. Polio vaccine developer  
52. Not soft  
53. Exchange rate  
54. Voice (Italian)  
57. Baseball's Ruth  
58. Famed guitarist Clapton  
59. Take a chance  
61. Wife  
62. Elaborate handshake

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# Marketplace

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## Auctions



### Horse Farm Downsizing Online Only Auction

163 Dale Road, Troutville, Virginia Tractors, Trailers, Wood Chipper and More! Bidding Begins to close Thursday, December

7th at 7:30 pm

Preview will be Thursday December 7th from

3:30-5:30 PM

Pick-up will be Friday, December 8th from

3:30-5:30 PM

Visit www.CircleCAuction.com Contact Cody Munsple, Auctioneer (VAAL 2907004430) @ (540) 784-9254 with any questions.

VA AF# 2908001046

## Help Wanted - Drivers

### Part Time Newspaper Driver

Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening drivingshift for newspaperdelivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355

## Help Wanted - General

### Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Circulation Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email customerservice@ourvalley.org

## MECHANICS URGENTLY NEEDED:

Experienced Heavy Equip. Mechanic to work on mainly Komatsu, CAT Loaders, Dozers, and Excavators and Haul Trucks.

Experienced Forklift Mechanic to work on Toyota forklifts, Bobcat Loaders and more. Can help train. Serious inquiries only! Competitive Pay and Benefits.

Must apply in person at Austinville Limestone 223 Newtown Church Rd. Austinville, VA. 24312

## For Sale - Firewood

**FIREWOOD** Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery in Botetourt only.

## For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE** 5ft x 10ft HD Trailer with cover rack Call Bud 5405807344

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## Legals - Botetourt County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 50 BERRY RIDGE RD, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 17, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$173,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200000244. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 12, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE BUCHANAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, BY SURVEY, WITH METES AND BOUNDS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY CHRISTOPHER N. MCMURRY, L.S., DATED AUGUST 28, 2008, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 45, PAGE 35. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original 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 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against 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.bwwsales.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 confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

## Legals - Botetourt County

LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-365831-1.

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 366 Bridge Street N, Buchanan, VA 24066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$53,680.00 dated December 1, 2015 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on December 14, 2015 as Instrument Number: 1504503, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY OF HEARTHLAND SUBDIVISION, PREPARED BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S., DAIED JULY 3, 1991, OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 14, AT PAGE 73. Tax ID: 22.559. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 23-008417) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orland PC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orland.com The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this Sale. Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832.

## Legals - Botetourt County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 50 BERRY RIDGE RD, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

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## Legals - City of Salem

### DIVORCE NOTICE

Granville County Civil Court in Granville County, NC will be hearing a plea for the decree of divorce for which suit is pending and as filed by Larissa L. Peluso-Fleming of 4010 Pastor Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (petitioner/wife) versus Andrew Taylor McDonald of 1619 Valhalla Court, Salem, VA 24513 (defendant/husband) The defendant must enter a defense to such pleading within 30 days after the date of receipt of divorce filing as delivered by the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department. Should the defendant fail to make a defense within that time period, the plaintiff shall apply to the court for relief.

## Legals - City of Salem

### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on December 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway Business District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Deputy Executive Secretary

## Legals - Montgomery County

### TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2032: An Ordinance Vacating a Public Utility Easement on Land Located at 215 Cork Drive. The proposed ordinance request is to release the Town's interest in a Public Utility easement located at 215 Cork Drive.

## Legals - City of Salem

### DIVORCE NOTICE

Ordinance 2034: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Section 18-401 Pertaining to the Surcharge for Certain Industrial Wastes. The proposed ordinance establishes a surcharge to be imposed on industrial sewers for discharges of BOD and TSS in excess of the levels contained in normal wastewater under the terms of an approved Discharge Permit.

Ordinance 2039: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 22-221 and 22-222 Pertaining to Tax Exemptions for Elderly and Disabled by Increasing Income and Asset Limits. The proposed ordinance will increase the eligibility limits for income and net worth for elderly or disabled persons. This will align with recent changes to Montgomery County's income and net worth limits.

Ordinance 2042: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate an Additional \$194,000 of the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Grant Funds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. The Town has received an additional \$194,000 from the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Project and these funds must be accepted and appropriated to the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget of the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

## Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance 2043: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2044 will accept and appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2044: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$406,038 in VDOT Primary Extension Paving Funding and \$168,750 in VDOT Primary Extension ADA Funding to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

All persons affected by or interested in these ordinances above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

## Legals - Town of Vinton

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Seeking Applicants to Fill Vinton District Vacancy**

The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County is searching for candidates to fill the vacancy in the Vinton Magisterial District as the result of P. Jason Peters' election to the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue.

## Legals - Roanoke County

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Seeking Applicants to Fill Vinton District Vacancy**

The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County is searching for candidates to fill the vacancy in the Vinton Magisterial District as the result of P. Jason Peters' election to the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue.

## Legals - Town of Vinton

### ABC NOTICE

Maa Vedai 6 LLC, trading as JENNIFER GROCERY, 1312 Patterson Ave SW, Roanoke, Roanoke City, VA. 24016.

## Legals - Town of Vinton

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC)

AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application-Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Haresh Chaudhari, Only Member.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

## STATEWIDE ADS

### STATEWIDE ADS

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Radford to play for state title Saturday

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School will play for the Class 2 state football title this weekend after beating last year's state champion Graham this past week on the turf at Christiansburg in front of 4,000-plus fans. Radford will face Riverheads at Salem stadium.

The Bobcats (12-1) are seeking their first state title in 51 years, and Saturday will be their first state championship appearance since 2009. You can't say that about their opponent.

Riverheads (13-1) is no stranger to the state championship game. The numbers show: District Champions in 1975, 1976, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; Region B Runner-up in 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011; Region Champions in 2000,

2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; State Runner-Ups in 2015 and State Champions in 2000, 2006, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

This will be Riverheads' ninth straight trip to the big game. They moved up to Class 2 this season after winning the last seven trophies in Class 1.

Last year, they beat George Wythe in the championship, also played at Salem as Riverheads rushed for 485 yards and seven touchdowns in the 49-27 win. Riverheads running back Cayden Cash-Cook rushed 17 times for 282 yards and five touchdowns.

The Gladiators had to use a field goal as time ran out earlier this season in a win over Christiansburg. The wins have come in buckets for the team.

Riverheads has clicked off 13 straight wins after losing their season opener 8-7 to Central Woodstock. They avenged that loss in the playoffs.

This past weekend, Riverheads rolled 37-7 over Poquoson. They have outscored opponents 451 to 160 this season.

Caden Cook-Cash has been the workhorse for Riverheads. He has rushed for 100 yards in eight games.

He was last year's Class 1 Offensive Player of the Year after gaining 1,879 yards rushing with 175 carries and 26 rushing touchdowns including 77 yards in four playoff games. He has rushed for over 3,900 yards in the past three years. A foot injury forced him to miss several games during the regular season.

The team runs a Wing-T formation, which relies on blocking and pulling defenders out of position, plus some misdirection, to create running room. In so many ways, it looks similar to the Single-Wing run by Radford's foe in Giles.

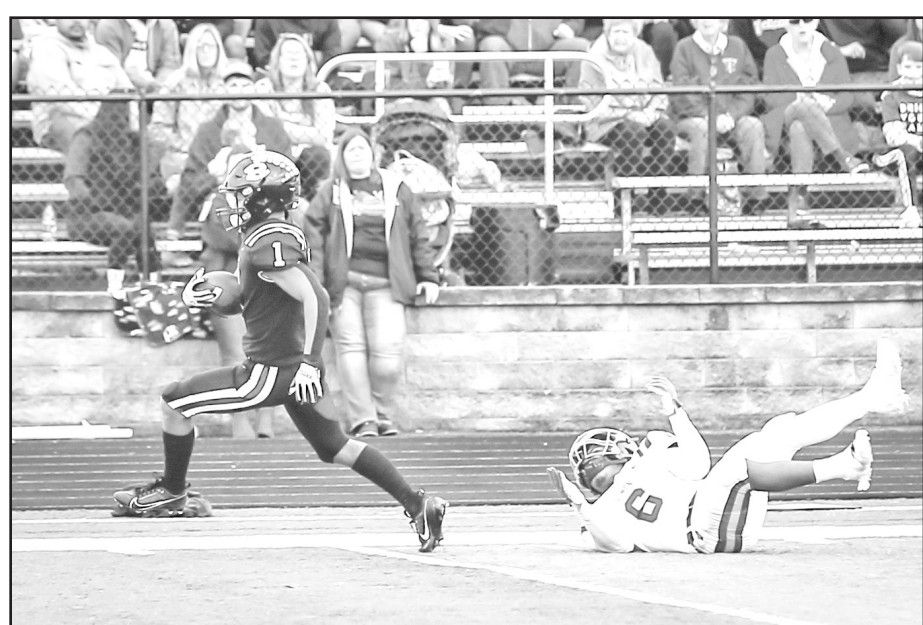
## Radford advances over Graham



Receiver Max Kanipe pulls down a pass reception between two Graham defenders.



The Bobcats' defense, including #14 Cole Martin, #28 Brandon Thompson, and #7 Landen Clark, gang tackles a Graham receiver.



Receiver Sincere Taylor makes a catch and leaves the defensive back on the ground while racing to the end zone for a Bobcats' touchdown.



Dawson Martin wraps up the Graham quarterback for a sack as the defense held the normally potent Graham offense to only 10 points.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Clark rewriting Radford's record books



PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford quarterback Landen Clark avoids a defender to score Radford's touchdown in Saturday's state semi-final game.

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Glenvar's loss is Radford's gain. Landon Clark has led the Radford High School football team to an undefeated record and this week's state championship to be played in Salem. He didn't even suit up in the black and gold until his family moved to Radford when he was in the eighth grade, from none other than the school's toughest rival - Glenvar.

Two weeks ago, it was last minute drive by Clark that gave the Bobcats regional title over Glenvar, who ironically had become the spear in his new team's side for two of the past four years.

Sunday, he looked back at the semi-final win over Graham.

"I'm proud of our guys. Saturday was one of the most physical games we have had all year," Clark said.

He laughs at being called the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) at Radford High School, but he has taken control of the record books and is racing to the top of almost every category.

"I wouldn't go [being called the GOAT] that far," Clark said.

But let's take a look at the stats.

The senior leader has thrown 191 completions on 317 attempts for 3,109 yards with 36 touchdowns. He has also rushed 120 times for 1,083 yards and 25 scores. Combined he has been involved in one form or another to over 90 percent of Radford's offense.

He has also become very important on the defensive side of the ball. Of course, Saturday was no exception as Clark picked off two interceptions from his free safety spot and tallied 17 tackles.

See Radford, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

## Hokies to face Tulane in Military Bowl

Virginia Tech's win over the University of Virginia propelled them to their sixth win of the season and will go bowling on Dec. 27 in the Military Bowl against Tulane.

The announcement was made Sunday night.

Virginia Tech football will play in the Military Bowl against Tulane Wednesday Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. ET in Annapolis, Md. at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, marking Tech's 35th all-time bowl berth.

The Hokies (6-6, 5-3 ACC) and Tulane (11-2, 8-1 AAC) have faced

each other before, with the most recent contest taking place in 1989 in favor of the Hokies, 30-13. Tech narrowly leads the all-time series 5-4.

Ticket reservations for the Military Bowl will be made available Sunday evening exclusively for Hokie Scholarship Fund donors as of March 1, 2023. The deadline for donors to complete their ticket reservation is this Tuesday at noon ET. Following the deadline, tickets will be allocated based on priority point ranking with the top three membership levels receiving guaranteed access to tickets.

## Bama owns CFP, FSU disrespected

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Final Four teams for the College Football Playoffs were unveiled Sunday and left many fans and college leaders scratching their heads. #1 Michigan will play #4 Alabama, and #2 Washington will face #3 Texas. It is the inclusion of 11-1 Bama from

the Southeastern Conference that has us all wondering what the CFP committee was thinking when they made those decisions.

The playoff was set up with conference champions in mind, but Bama, who won the SEC title, did lose to Texas earlier this year. Florida State

See CFP, page 8

# Radford from page 7

"I like playing both sides of the ball. The safety is like the quarterback on defense. It helps me to read the offense, and I will do whatever this team's needs," he said after the win over Graham.

His last statement has been true all season even taking on the role of punter for Radford.

Against Graham, Clark was 10 of 21 for 199 yards with two touchdowns and punted five times for an

average of 42 yards.

The Elon University signee only stands at 6-0, 200 but is able to sit back behind a pretty good line of Bobcats and remain pretty unscathed this season.

Looking ahead, Clark wouldn't go out on the limb and make a prediction on the contest against Riverheads. Instead, he used the simple analogy of "it would not be a better way to go out but to win a state championship."

"Right now, we are 0-0, and we're looking to go 1-0 this week. We have prepared that way every week this season and will do so again."

Clark and the Bobcats are expecting the faithful to show up in full force as Saturday's game is being played just down the interstate in Salem. Game time in 11:30 a.m.

# CFP from page 7

out of the ACC finished undefeated and beat Louisville in the conference championship. Yet, they were left out of the final four. Something is just not right.

Florida State head coach Mike Norvell summed it perfectly to this decision.

"I am disgusted and infuriated with the committee's decision to have what was earned on the field taken away because a small group of people decided they knew better than the results of the games.

"What is the point of playing games? Do you tell players it is okay

to quit if someone goes down? Do you not play a senior on Senior Day for fear of injury? Where is the motivation to schedule challenging non-conference games? We are not only an undefeated P5 conference champion, but we also played two P5 non-conference games away from home and won both of them. I don't understand how we are supposed to think this is an acceptable way to evaluate a team."

Florida State athletics director Michael Alford also ripped the College Football Playoff Committee.

"The 2023 Florida State Seminoles are the epitome of a total TEAM.

To eliminate them from a chance to compete for a national championship is an unwarranted injustice that shows complete disregard and disrespect for their performance and accomplishments."

"For many of us, today's decision by the committee has forever damaged the credibility of the institution that is the College Football Playoff."

Alabama moved from the top nine to the top four in a quick fashion, and we have to wonder why. Of course, Bama has spent its share of time in the CFP including winning it a couple of times. So, what is up with them getting the

bid over FSU who had been in the Top Five for the past five weeks.

The Seminoles did not lose. The Seminoles did what the CFP committee had always wanted the undefeated conference champions to have a chance for the national championship.

But not this year, the whole scenario has become a joke. I told several people just weeks ago if Bama beat Georgia then the committee would find a way for the "cash cow" to be there on Jan. 1.

Thanks for the CFP to be nothing new. It's the same message. Let's Bama play

# Vampire bats make northward flight seeking stable climates

Vampire bats may soon take up residence in the United States and bring with them an ancient pathogen.

"What we found was that the distribution of vampire bats has moved northward across time due to past climate change, which has corresponded with an increase in rabies cases in many Latin American countries," said Paige Van de Vuurst, a Ph.D. student in Virginia Tech's Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program.

Luis Escobar, assistant professor of wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, as well as undergraduate and graduate students studied vampire bats in Colombia during a summer research trip. Photo courtesy of Paige Van de Vuurst. Van de Vuurst is the lead author of research recently published in the *Ecography* journal that predicts that vampire bats — currently only found in Mexico and Central and South America — are on the move with the United States being a viable home

in 27 years. The findings concluded that with shifting seasonality — the differences in temperature between the coldest and warmest seasons — vampire bats have expanded their locations in search of more stable, temperate climates.

The research team, which included both undergraduate and graduate students, also found this expanded reach could be linked to a spillover of rabies. Vampire bats are known carriers of rabies, a disease known for its high mortality rates and often considered the oldest pathogen known by humans, dating back 3,000 years.

Latin America is currently feeling the bite of the rabies spread through the loss of livestock, which has generated fear as the bats' migration patterns expand. The Virginia Tech team aims to vigorously identify and track the bats by traveling to Colombia to help contain the spread to other countries, including the United States and its vital cattle industry.

Why Colombia?

"Colombia is a mega-diverse country, making it a perfect natural laboratory," said Luis Escobar, assistant professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. The country boasts having the highest number of hummingbirds and bats, attributed to its tropic climate and proximity to the equator.

Collaborating with three local universities — University of La Salle, Universidad Distrital, and Universidad del Tolima — the collective team traveled all across Colombia to collect more than 70 samples of bat species. This included a range of geographic and climate changes, starting in the hot and humid jungles to cold and cloudy parts of the Andes Mountains that are only accessible by cable car. This allowed the team to secure a variety of samples and observe how changes in climate can change the emergence of diseases in bats.

The team also explored places in Colombia that were previously closed

to scientists, including Chaparral, a municipality in the Tolima region that was allowed to start welcoming tourists after the 2016 peace agreement.

The team's research sought to address a knowledge gap that limits the understanding of the spread of rabies and its spillover from wildlife to humans. Their work had three primary aims:

Determine the role of habitat and virus mutation on rabies spillover to humans and livestock across Latin America

Identify the effect of changes in biodiversity in rabies virus spillover

Investigate geographic and environmental factors influencing the spread of bat-borne

Sinking teeth into the experience

This field experience allowed four undergraduate and two graduate students to travel to Colombia.

"There is a sad reality in wildlife research at the moment that often mandates a 'pay to play' mentality, where students must pay for the experience of doing field work, especially international field work," Van de Vuurst said.

All of the students' expenses, including travel, accommodations, and food, were supported through a National Science Foundation grant, Examining the Geography of Pathogen Spillover, awarded to Escobar, an affiliated faculty member in the Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Anthropod-borne Pathogens and the Global Change Center. Van de Vuurst led the team's



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE VAN DE VUURST

**Luis Escobar, assistant professor of wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, as well as undergraduate and graduate students studied vampire bats in Colombia during a summer research trip.**

campuswide recruitment efforts, yielding 30 interested students from across disciplines.

In advance of the trip to Colombia to study vampire bats, Escobar and his team met near the Duck Pond to review critical safety information and field sampling protocols.

"We selected a truly stellar group of students, and I could not be prouder of them," said Van de Vuurst.

She was provided an opportunity as an undergraduate to go on an international excursion to Peru. "That trip changed my life, and really opened up the world of ecology for me. I am so glad that we were able to offer that same kind of once in a lifetime research experience to so many students through Luis' hard work and generosity."

For undergraduate Julia Alexander, it was a series of firsts, including first field experience, first time on a plane, and first time out of the country.

As part of the Escobar Lab's research staff, Alexander was able to study disease transmission in vampire bats and other local bat species, working with local communities in the Tolima region. It was critically important

for Escobar and Van de Vuurst to be able to offer the international research opportunity, knowing that undergraduate students are not usually able to participate in such an experience.

"I not only learned valuable field skills for my career, but also important life lessons from every challenge faced," Alexander said. "Although this journey was not easy, I wouldn't exchange the experience for anything else."

Crossing borders to collaborate

The value of building a network of international collaboration cannot be understated, especially in terms of the commonalities of technology, facilities, and students between Virginia Tech and their international partners.

In fact, Escobar is hosting Diego Soler-Tovar, assistant professor from Universidad La Salle, who will be working in the Escobar lab through late January 2024, to study the drivers of rabies spread in Latin America.



"We all have one goal: generating samples, new data, and new knowledge," Escobar said.


Lindsey Haugh for Virginia Tech


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