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## Historic Merry Oak will continue telling its story

By Travis Williams

Kerri Moseley-Hobbs recently traveled more than five hours to help with arrangements for a loved one. “We look at the tree as an ancestor,” Moseley-Hobbs said of the historic Merry Oak. “That’s why I came down from Maryland to follow the tree, because it’s the same thing as when you have a family member pass away. You follow them through the funeral process.” Moseley-Hobbs is a part of a universitywide, multi-year effort to preserve the presence and legacy of the white oak, which was located on the grounds of Smithfield Plantation and claimed by a storm in May 2020. Estimated to be more than three centuries old and to have stood long before European colonists arrived, the Merry Tree, as it is commonly called, is thought to have become a sacred gathering place for the people enslaved at the plantation. “The Merry Tree was the place or location in which



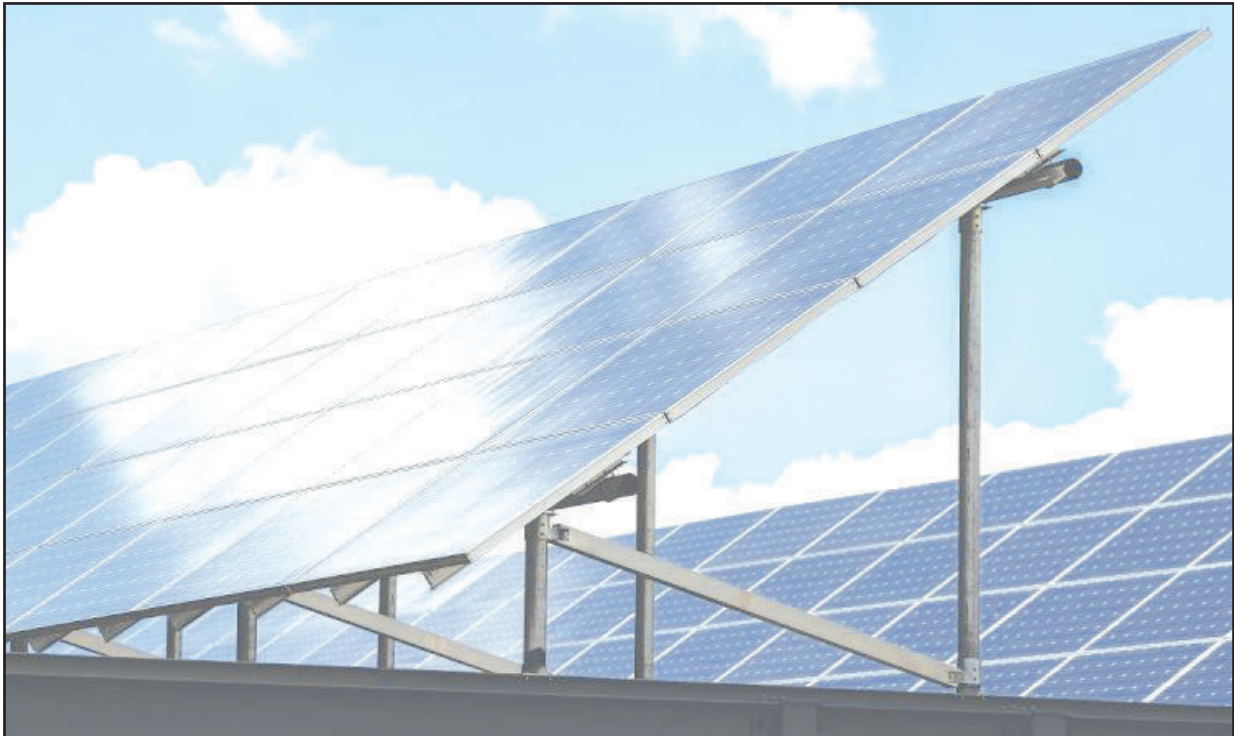
PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**Workers secure the remains of the Merry Oak tree so it can be hauled to a mill in Floyd.**

the enslaved community would gather for meetings, religious ceremonies, and celebrations. And when I say celebrations, I also mean homegoing services and funerals,” said Moseley-Hobbs, whose four-times-grandfather Thomas Fraction was once enslaved at Smithfield. Through the combined efforts of Virginia Tech, Smithfield Plantation, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and descendants of families formerly enslaved there, the crown of the tree has been removed and is now in the process of being crafted into two art installations. After extensive planning and discussions, this process officially began in late February.

“Since the storm hit and the tree went down, there has been a lot of discussion among university stakeholders and members of the Fraction family to ensure we treated this wood with the dignity it deserves,” said Wendy Halsey, assistant vice president for facilities operations at Virginia Tech. “While this is just the first step, our path forward will remain committed to collaboration, thoughtful planning, and respect.” A ceremony at the Merry Oak site was held during 1872 Forward: Celebrating Virginia Tech from March

See **Merry Oak**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**An existing solar array atop the Perry Street Garage on the Blacksburg campus. Photo by Sarah Myers for Virginia Tech.**

## New solar energy project to boost renewable energy efforts on Blacksburg campus

By Alexa Briebl

A new solar energy power purchase agreement will help boost Virginia Tech’s Climate Action Commitment implementation efforts toward 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030. The project involves 2.1 megawatts of solar arrays on seven Blacksburg campus buildings: Durham Hall, Hahn Practice Facility, McComas Hall, Sterrett Facilities Complex, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech Electric Service, and Dietrick Hall. When complete, the arrays will produce 2800 megawatts of electricity per year and reduce campus carbon dioxide emissions by 44,000

tons over 20 years. The new solar installations will accompany the existing and much smaller solar arrays located on the roofs of the Perry Street Garage, Whittemore Hall, and Durham Hall. Installation of the new arrays will start this spring. Full installation is anticipated to be completed in about a year. Virginia Tech is partnering with Sun Tribe to execute the purchase power agreement after a competitive bidding process. Sun Tribe is based in Charlottesville and was co-founded by three Virginia Tech alumni: Devin Welch, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business; Taylor Brown, who earned a bachelor’s de-

gree in mechanical engineering; and Rich Allevi, who earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a master’s degree in biological systems engineering. Sun Tribe will develop and initially own and maintain the arrays and sell the power to the Virginia Tech Electric Service through a power purchase agreement for six years. After that, Virginia Tech plans to purchase and maintain the systems for the remainder of their 30-year useful lives. “Expanding Virginia Tech’s renewable energy portfolio is a key component in our efforts toward achieving the Virginia Tech 2020

See **Solar**, page 6

## VDOT seeks comments on study to improve sections of Christiansburg’s North Franklin Street and Peppers Ferry Road

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in partnership with the Town of Christiansburg invites residents and travelers to provide input on a transportation study to address safety and concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians on a section of North Franklin Street and a section of Peppers Ferry Road in Christiansburg. The study will analyze the operational and safety issues on the section of Route 460 Business (North Franklin Street) between Farmview Road and Merrimac Road and on the section of Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) between Stafford Drive and Arbor Drive. Public comments on the study are being accepted through an online survey until April 4, 2022. Information about the study and the online survey can be found on the [VAProjectPipeline.org](http://VAProjectPipeline.org) website or using the direct link at Route 460 Business and Route 114 in Christiansburg. Community input received through this survey will help further re-

fine and finalize potential improvements. The study partners may consider the recommendations for possible advancement through future local, regional, state, and federal transportation funding programs. This study is being conducted as part of a new program, Project Pipeline, created by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). Project Pipeline is a performance-based planning program to identify cost-effective solutions to multimodal transportation needs in Virginia. Through this planning process, projects and solutions may be considered for funding through programs including Smart Scale, revenue sharing, interstate funding, and others. Project Pipeline is led by Virginia’s Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment in collaboration with VDOT and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The final plan will provide a multimodal investment strategy that can be used to seek and secure funding.

## VT’s Daniel Thorp to discuss his new book at Blacksburg Library

Virginia Tech Associate Professor of History Daniel Thorp will discuss his new book, *In the True Blue’s Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation*, at the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St. SW, on Wednesday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing. In the *True Blue’s Wake* tells the story of the men and women who were enslaved at Smithfield Plantation between its establishment in 1774 and the abolition of slavery there in 1865: who they were and how they and their families endured the experience of slavery. It then follows those families after their eman-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**VT associate history professor Daniel Thorp will visit the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St. SW, on Wednesday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and sign his new book *In the True Blue’s Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation*.**

See **Thorp**, page 6

## New study of Yellowstone helps answer where all the park’s hot water comes from

The geysers and fumaroles of Yellowstone National Park are among the most iconic and popular geological features on our planet. Each year, millions of visitors travel to the park to marvel at the towering eruptions of Old Faithful, the bubbling mud cauldrons of Artists Paint Pots, the crystal-clear water and iridescent colors of Grand Prismatic Spring, and the stacked travertine terraces of Mammoth Hot Springs. Those who have visited the park may have asked themselves, “Where does all the hot water come from?” A study published this week in *Nature*, co-authored by Virginia Tech’s W. Steven Holbrook and colleagues from the U.S. Geological Survey and Aarhus University in Denmark, provides stunning subsurface images that begin to answer that question. The research team used geophysical data

collected from a helicopter to create images of Yellowstone’s subsurface “plumbing” system. The method detects features with unusual electrical and magnetic properties indicative of hydrothermal alteration. “The combination of high electrical conductivity and low magnetization is like a fingerprint of hydrothermal activity that shows up very clearly in the data,” said Holbrook, a professor of geophysics and head of the Department of Geosciences in Virginia Tech’s College of Science. “The method is essentially a hydrothermal pathway detector.” Images from the study show that the park’s geology profoundly shapes its hot springs. Hot hydrothermal fluids ascend nearly vertically, from depths of more than 1 km (or .62 miles), to arrive at the park’s

See **Yellowstone**, page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Through April 30

**Free prom dresses**  
By appointment only at the Meadowbrook Public Library, which has prom dresses of all sizes available for free to anyone in Montgomery County, Floyd County, and throughout the New River Valley. Call (540) 268-1964 to make an appointment to try on and choose a free prom dress.

## Saturday, March 26:

**Virginia Tech Fireworks and Skipper alert, Ring Dance**  
Ring Dance events will take place on the Blacksburg campus with fireworks scheduled for approximately 11:15 p.m. on the Drillfield. In addition, Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired from the Drillfield once at the start of the fireworks display.

**Introduction to Quilting for Kids: How to Sew a Straight Seam**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Make and take a standard size pillowcase while learning the basics of sewing machine use and the importance of stitching on a straight line. Kits will be provided. Ages 8 to 12 accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sewing machines, but machines will be provided. Irons will be provided and used by adults. The class is co-sponsored by The Quilting Party.

## Sunday, March 27:

**Chess Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Monday, March 28:

**Scams against Older Adults with Better Business Bureau**  
At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Presented by Riley Ginger, Community Outreach and Events Coordinator of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia. Register to attend by emailing Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov. Sandwiches will be provided via registration. Options include vegetarian or turkey 6” from Jimmy Johns. Participants can email their sandwich preference when they register to attend.

**Crafternoon Delight for adults only**  
Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library from 1 to 2 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks, and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight. This group knits, crochets, embroiders, felts, and paints. Knowledgeable staff can help participants with their needlework craft. Projects will also be available to learn how to put a blanket together for Project Linus with supplies provided.

**Talking About Books**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. Discussed this month is “There There” by Tommy Orange. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

## Tuesday, March 29:

**Blacksburg Parks, Recreation Active Adult Program: ‘Old Age Ain’t for Sis-sies’**  
This is a frank look at the challenges of growing older. The program is free, but registration is required. 1 to 2 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Call 540-443-1142 for more information and to register.

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Club: “A Master of Djinn”**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is “A Master of Djinn” by P. Djeli Clark. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

**Mini-canvas art**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Participants can create mini-art-work. They can leave their art to be displayed in the library. Supplies are limited and registration is required.

## Wednesday, March 30:

**Sustainable Blacksburg Lunch and Learn: Start Planning for Gardening Season**  
At the Blacksburg Library; noon. This is a presentation on community gardens, LWEG (Live, Work, Eat, Grow, the local nonprofit that oversees the community gardens) and getting ready for the coming garden season.

## Thursday, March 31:

**Bad art afternoon**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 3 p.m. Participants can come prepared

to create some art . . . bad art. A variety of supplies will be provided, and artists can draw, paint, and glue to create the best worst art. A trophy will be given to the creator of the best bad art. All ages are welcome. Registration is required. Contact Spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

**National Crayon Day: Crayon Crafts.**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Participants will make crayon keychain pendants and crayon art.

**DIY Terrarium Jars**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Participants will create do-it-yourself terrarium jars for a decorative splash of greenery to brighten the home. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required. All ages.

## Saturday, April 2:

**Blacksburg Leaf Compost Pick up**  
Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive for composting and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of the landfill. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gasses.  
This year, the compost can be picked up on April 2, from 8 a.m. to noon. To arrange for pickup, residents must register and follow these guidelines: Leaf compost service is for Blacksburg residents only. Register for a 15-minute time slot. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes early. Remain parked in the upper lot until town staff provide directions to the compost zone. There the staff will load up the vehicle. The limit is two cubic yards per vehicle. Do not block access to the road leading to the compost zone. Once the vehicle is loaded, please exit promptly.

## Tuesday, April 5:

**50 Years in the Making: Celebrating old time, blues and bluegrass music**  
All concert ticket sales will benefit the Montgomery Museum of Art and History. The concert is presented by the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). At the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. Seating is limited and tickets are now available online at <https://montgomerymuseum.org/events/50-years-in-the-making/>. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Moss Arts Center box office during certain open hours. For more information, call the box office at 540-231-5300. A mask, photo ID, and proof of COVID19 vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event are required for admittance.

## Thursday, April 7:

**American Legion Meeting**  
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

## Tuesday, April 12:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at Aly’s Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Thursday, April 14:

**River City Quilt Guild**  
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

**Radford Army Ammunitions Plant community meeting**  
At the Christiansburg Public Library at 6 p.m. This community meeting will discuss modernization and environmental projects and compliance and corrective actions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Staff members from the U.S. Army and BAE Systems will be on hand to engage with the public. Questions ahead of the meeting may be emailed to [usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil).

## Saturday, April 16:

**Radford Easter Egg Hunt**  
At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The schedule by age groups is as follows: noon: ages 3-5; 12:25 p.m.: ages 6-8; 12:30 p.m.: ages 9-12; 12:45 p.m.: ages 3 and under. Bounce houses, fire trucks, police cars, food trucks, and photos with the Easter Bunny will be a part of the fun. Children should bring a basket.

## Virtuoso Edgar Meyer and Scottish Ensemble to present evening of classical works at MAC

Grammy-winning bassist Edgar Meyer, celebrated the world over for his work as a performer and composer, will pair with string orchestra Scottish Ensemble for a performance of classical works including a new composition by Meyer written especially for this tour, at the Moss Arts Center on Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m.  
Meyer makes his third appearance at the Moss Arts Center for the performance, which will be held in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.  
In addition to Meyer’s new composition, the evening concert will feature the first movement of Meyer’s string quintet, Gustav Holst’s “St. Paul’s Suite,” Bach’s Gamba Sonata in G, “Punctum” by Caroline Shaw, and Vaughan Williams’ “The Lark Ascending.”  
This event brings together two formidable forces in classical music performance. Meyer’s unparalleled technique and musicianship in combination with his gift for composition have brought him to the fore, and his uniqueness in the field was recognized by a MacArthur Award in 2002.  
Scottish Ensemble is the U.K.’s leading string orchestra with a core of outstanding string players who inspire audiences with vibrant performances that are powerful, challenging, and rewarding experiences that cross genres, styles, musical periods, and artistic forms to offer fresh perspectives on classical music.  
In 2011, Meyer joined cellist Yo-Yo Ma, mandolinist Chris Thile, and fiddler Stuart

Duncan for the Grammy-winning “The Goat Rodeo Sessions.” He received his fifth Grammy Award in 2015 for his “Bass & Mandolin” collaboration with Thile, and his most recent recording, “Not Our First Rodeo,” is the 2020 follow-up to “The Goat Rodeo Sessions.”  
Meyer also has carved out a remarkable niche as a composer. His “New Piece for Orchestra” was premiered and commissioned by the Nashville Symphony and the Aspen Music Festival and School in 2017, and “Concerto for Double Bass and Violin” was premiered in 2012 by Bell and Meyer at the Tanglewood Music Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.  
Scottish Ensemble members and Meyer will come together for a wide-ranging conversation on collaboration, composition, and performance on Thursday, March 31, at 2 p.m. in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre. Moderated by Alan Weinstein, associate professor of cello, bass, and chamber music in the School of Performing Arts, and co-presented by the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech, the event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. The event will also be available to view as a livestream.  
Tickets for the performance are \$25 to \$55 for the general public and \$10 for Virginia Tech 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.



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## Legals - City of Radford

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 21, 2022

Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Housing and Community Development 600 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Chloe Rote (804) 840-1909  
[Chloe.Rote@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:Chloe.Rote@dhcd.virginia.gov)

These notices shall satisfy procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 12, 2022 the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Richmond Office (HUD) for the release of HOME funds under Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Title II, 1990, as amended, to undertake one project known as Leggett Building Apartments. The project is proposed for rehabilitation using DHCD State HOME funds in the amount of \$700,000. Taylor Hollow Construction will be converting the former Leggett Building in downtown Radford into 11 mixed-income rental units. The units will be a mix of one and two bedrooms and will have elevator access, making them accessible to handicapped or senior residents. Five of the units will be affordable to households earning at or below 60% of the area median income; two units will be affordable to a household earning at or below 50% of the area median income. The vacant commercial building is located at 1129 East Main Street in Radford. The estimated total cost of construction is \$2,952,000.

## Legals - City of Radford

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DHCD has determined that the project in all phases on the contiguous site will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Chloe Rote (DHCD) 600 East Main Street, Suite #300, Richmond, VA 23219 or by email to [Chloe.Rote@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:Chloe.Rote@dhcd.virginia.gov).

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to DHCD, 600 E. Main St, Richmond, VA 23219. All comments received by 4:30pm April 11, 2022; will be considered by DHCD prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DHCD certifies to HUD that Bryan Todd in his capacity as Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the DHCD to use Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**  
HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DHCD certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of DHCD; (b) the State has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email or phone in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Richmond CPD Office at the following address: CPD\_Covid-19environmentalobjections RIC@hud.gov, or by phone at (804) 842-2610 Potential objectors should contact the HUD Richmond CPD Office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Bryan Horn  
Director, DHCD

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## City of Radford CDBG Annual Action Plan

The City of Radford Draft 5-Year Consolidated Plan for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027 and Draft Program Year 2022 Action Plan will be available for comment period beginning March 26, 2022 and ending Monday, April 25, 2022. The 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan has been developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The 5-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document that identifies housing and community development

## Legals - City of Radford

needs of the City's low-to moderate income, homeless and special needs population, as well as targeted area's identified by the City.

The PY 2022 Annual Action Plan serves as the City's grant application to HUD for approximately \$185,184 and sets the goals and budgets for the use of funds.

Beginning Saturday, March 26, 2022, a copy of the Draft Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and Citizen's Participation Plan is available for review online at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov) or at the City Manager's Office, 10 Robertson St, Radford VA 24141, beginning March 28, 2022 from 8:30am to 5:00 pm.

## Legals - City of Radford

In addition, the City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00pm to receive comments.

Comments may be given via e-mail to: [melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov), by phone at (540) 267-3188, by mail to Community Developer, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA 24141.

## BAG



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DRIVERS

## LEGAL NOTICE County of Montgomery, Virginia Synopsis of Advertised Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

This budget synopsis is prepared and published pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of Code of Virginia, for information and fiscal planning purposes only.

A hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2022 at 6:15 P.M. at the County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at which time any citizen of the County shall have the opportunity to attend and state his or her views on the advertised budget.

A copy of the Advertised Budget is available for inspection at the County Government Center, in the County Administrator's Office, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Library, 125 Sheltman St., Christiansburg; the Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Springs Road, Shawsville; the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Municipal Building, in the Town Manager's Office, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg; and the Christiansburg Town Hall, in the Town Manager's Office, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg.

#### EXPENDITURES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Advertised Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Board of Supervisors	\$ 282,503	\$ 282,521	\$ 18
County Administration	\$ 2,139,175	\$ 3,420,597	\$ 1,281,422
County Attorney	\$ 392,712	\$ 395,987	\$ 3,275
Finance	\$ 1,026,940	\$ 1,100,302	\$ 73,362
Insurance	\$ 210,695	\$ 230,695	\$ 20,000
Information Technology	\$ 2,166,844	\$ 2,251,939	\$ 85,095
Commissioner of the Revenue-State	\$ 604,072	\$ 607,609	\$ 3,537
Assessment-100% County	\$ 501,438	\$ 483,425	\$ (18,013)
Treasurer-State	\$ 503,805	\$ 494,464	\$ (9,341)
Collections-100% County	\$ 501,782	\$ 458,110	\$ (43,672)
Electoral Board/Director of Elections	\$ 480,599	\$ 550,237	\$ 69,638
Commonwealth Attorney	\$ 1,363,990	\$ 1,377,342	\$ 13,352
Courts	\$ 271,939	\$ 275,888	\$ 3,949
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$ 777,980	\$ 808,014	\$ 30,034
Sheriff-State	\$ 8,414,297	\$ 8,260,821	\$ (153,476)
Sheriff-100% County	\$ 7,374,033	\$ 7,473,269	\$ 99,236
Fire Departments and Rescue Squads	\$ 1,494,981	\$ 1,528,181	\$ 33,200
Animal Care and Adoption Center	\$ 665,885	\$ 696,830	\$ 30,945
General Services	\$ 6,775,341	\$ 6,936,621	\$ 161,280
Children's Services Act	\$ 1,651,969	\$ 1,651,969	\$ -
Human Services	\$ 401,863	\$ 393,713	\$ (8,150)
Public Health Department	\$ 604,488	\$ 615,000	\$ 10,512
Social Services	\$ 6,467,965	\$ 6,814,076	\$ 346,111
Parks & Recreation	\$ 1,321,070	\$ 1,424,223	\$ 103,153
Regional Library	\$ 2,398,052	\$ 2,392,230	\$ (5,822)
Planning & GIS	\$ 965,982	\$ 982,839	\$ 16,857
Economic Development	\$ 470,549	\$ 482,054	\$ 11,505
Other Agencies	\$ 2,804,425	\$ 2,860,159	\$ 55,734
Contingencies-General	\$ 536,307	\$ 583,307	\$ 47,000
Contingencies-Special	\$ 8,141	\$ 2,319,702	\$ 2,311,561
Revenue Refunds	\$ 195,000	\$ 195,000	\$ -
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 53,774,822</b>	<b>\$ 58,347,124</b>	<b>\$ 4,572,302</b>

##### Law Library

##### SCHOOLS:

School Operating	\$ 121,984,741	\$ 126,380,044	\$ 4,395,303
School Capital	\$ 2,195,645	\$ 2,259,973	\$ 64,328
School Nutrition	\$ 4,633,474	\$ 4,633,474	\$ -
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 128,813,860</b>	<b>\$ 133,273,491</b>	<b>\$ 4,459,631</b>

##### County Capital

##### Debt Service

##### Economic Development

##### COUNTY TOTAL

#### RESOURCES:

##### REVENUE:

##### General Undesignated Revenue:

Current Property Taxes (1)	\$ 103,807,971	\$ 107,793,451	\$ 3,985,480
Delinquent/Other Property Tax Revenue	\$ 2,996,000	\$ 3,359,323	\$ 363,323
Sales and Use Tax	\$ 10,202,157	\$ 11,153,109	\$ 950,952
Undesignated Consumer Utility Tax	\$ 1,628,000	\$ 1,563,000	\$ (65,000)
Motor Vehicle Licenses	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ -
All Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,325,000	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 130,000
Interest on Investments	\$ 113,268	\$ 75,028	\$ (38,240)
All Other Undesignated Revenue	\$ 520,384	\$ 616,384	\$ 96,000
<b>Total Undesignated Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 121,392,780</b>	<b>\$ 126,815,295</b>	<b>\$ 5,422,515</b>
General Designated Revenue	\$ 15,115,770	\$ 16,494,213	\$ 1,378,443
Law Library Designated Revenue	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
School Operating Designated Revenue	\$ 68,516,128	\$ 70,811,431	\$ 2,295,303
Other School Designated Resources	\$ 4,633,474	\$ 4,633,474	\$ -
Debt Service Designated	\$ 1,613,900	\$ 1,613,900	\$ -
<b>Total Designated Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 89,894,272</b>	<b>\$ 93,568,018</b>	<b>\$ 3,673,746</b>
Law Library Fund Balance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,600</b>	<b>\$ 2,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 211,289,652</b>	<b>\$ 220,385,913</b>	<b>\$ 9,096,261</b>

(1) Real Estate Tax Rate based on \$0.89 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.  
Personal Property Tax Rate Based on \$2.55 per \$100 Assessed Valuation.  
By Order of the Board of Supervisors:  
F. Craig Meadows, County Administrator  
County of Montgomery, Virginia

# OPINION

## Letter to the Editor: Medicare Advantage brings good health to seniors

Working in the medical field for over 30 years as a Women’s Health and Family Nurse Practitioner, I’ve learned many of the ins and outs of our health care system. I also know how complex our health care system is for those who don’t spend every day working in it. Insurance and Medicare programs are particularly challenging.

Medicare Advantage, however, is a public-private insurance option that supplements the care seniors receive from original Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans cover integrated vision, dental, and hearing benefits, access to companion care and at-home caregiver support, as well as prescription drug costs. The best part about these benefits is that they are easy to understand and access, so beneficiaries don’t have to spend

hours online sorting through their coverage to know what is and isn’t included in their plan.

Even during COVID-19, when health care was under a microscope across the country, Medicare Advantage plans adapted and provided increased benefits to enrollees. By establishing prescription drug and grocery delivery services, the program allowed seniors, a vulnerable population, to stay safely at home. With the addition of telehealth appointments, patients were able to maintain communication and healthcare appointments from their homes.

It’s these seemingly small, but meaningful efforts to promote senior needs as a top priority that make programs like Medicare Advantage so unique. Everyone should feel like their health care program puts the

patient first, and Medicare Advantage does just that.

Having served on the Radford City Council and several other regional boards and commissions, I have seen the effectiveness of public-private partnerships and this is one we need to continue. With all the focus on health care these past two years, I hope that Senators Warner and Kaine will continue to advocate for Medicare Advantage in Congress and show their commitment to senior health in Virginia.

*Laurie Buchwald*

*Laurie Buchwald is a women’s health nurse practitioner and former two-term member of the Radford City Council.*

## Yellowstone

from page 1

major hydrothermal fields. Along the way, they mix with shallower groundwater flowing within and beneath the park’s volcanic lava flows, which also are visible in the images. Faults and fractures guide the ascent of hydrothermal waters, while lava flow boundaries control the shallow groundwater aquifers.

The project fills in a longstanding knowledge gap about the underpinnings of Yellowstone’s charismatic hydrothermal features. Much is known about the park’s surface hydrothermal features, including the chemistry and temperature of mud pots and springs, the eruption interval of geysers, and the unique thermophilic bacteria that live in and around those features.

Likewise, scientists have a growing body of knowledge about the deeper heat sources and tectonic activity by tracking earthquakes that occur there. But little is known about how

the surface hydrothermal features are connected to each other and to the deeper sources of heat and fluids.

“Our knowledge of Yellowstone has long had a subsurface gap,” Holbrook said. “It’s like a ‘mystery sandwich’ — we know a lot about the surface features from direct observation and a fair amount about the magmatic and tectonic system several kilometers down from geophysical work, but we don’t really know what’s in the middle. This project has enabled us to fill in those gaps for the first time.”

To collect the data, the team used a unique instrument called “SkyTEM” that consists of a large loop of wire towed beneath a helicopter. As the helicopter flies, the loop sends downward repeated electromagnetic signals that provoke a response from electrically conductive bodies in the subsurface.

That response is recorded and later analyzed to produce detailed cross-sections along the flight lines. The technique is highly effective in environments like Yellowstone: hydrothermal fluids alter the rocks they pass through, turning rock into clay minerals — for example, the surface mud pots — that have heightened electrical conductivity but suppressed magnetization.

Because the helicopter is able to travel at speeds of 40 to 50 mph while towing the SkyTEM instrument, scientists involved in the study were able to cover large swaths of the sprawling, 3,500-square-mile na-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

tional park, Holbrook said.

Overall, the project generated more than 2,500 miles of helicopter lines, an enormous amount of data, according to Holbrook. Upon the study’s publication last month, the research team released the data so that others can undertake additional research.

“The data set is so big that we’ve only scratched the surface with this first paper,” Holbrook added. “I look forward to continuing to work on this data and to seeing what others come up with, too. It’s going to be a data set that keeps on giving.”

## Merry Oak

from page 1

24-26. Spearheaded by the work of the Council on Virginia Tech History, the three-day celebration recognized the varied groups who helped shape Virginia Tech: Indigenous peoples, African Americans, and European settlers.

“Virginia Tech has grown up as an institution in Blacksburg on land that holds Native American, African American, and European American history and traditions,” said Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for strategic affairs and vice provost for inclusion and diversity. “The many people of this land, from 1872 forward, have contributed to our growth. The events of the 1872 Forward weekend recognized and honored those who were here before us, who dreamed of what Virginia Tech might become, and whose stories can guide us into our future.”

The 1872 Forward event included both in-

person and online offerings throughout the long weekend.

Moseley-Hobbs said she expected almost 100 descendants of the people once enslaved at Smithfield to attend events. Records indicate that the McNorton, Saunders, and Fraction families all resided on the site at some point, with the Fractions currently considered to have been the most numerous.

“We’re still finding other descendants to redevelop the families. We know that we [the Fractions] were a large family here, and now we’re also trying to help the McNorton family rebuild,” Moseley-Hobbs said.

In April 2019, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors dedicated a building on campus to the families. The tiny, three-room building similar to the dwellings enslaved people lived in the 19th century is located at Solitude near the Duck Pond.

Moseley-Hobbs first reached out to the university to learn more about Thomas Fraction in 2016. Since then, she’s become

a staple at events related to Smithfield and Solitude and has established the More than a Fraction Foundation, which co-sponsored the March event.

She said the Merry Oak resembled many of the trees in West Africa, the region from which her family was taken, so it made sense her relatives would have been drawn to it. She even felt a special connection to the Merry Oak during her earliest trip to Blacksburg.

“The first time I came to Smithfield, I paused and stared up at the tree from the top of the hill before I even knew what it was,” she said. “As we find other’s descendants and bring them there, there’s always an emotional reaction and connection to the tree.”

University Arborist Jamie King witnessed that connection firsthand during one of Moseley-Hobbs’ visits just prior to the Merry Oak’s tragic storm.

“I watched her walk up to the tree and lean into it,” King said. “It was quite a powerful moment, and

later she told me a story about it.”

About two years later, Moseley-Hobbs still clearly recalls that moment.

“The tree looked like it had been trying to hold on [to life], and we just said to the tree, ‘You can go now,’” Moseley-Hobbs said. “And a couple months later, the wind hits it, and it goes.”

King said the tree most likely grew in response to winds from the west, as do most trees in the region. This, along with retrenchment — a process by which older trees naturally lose mass — and internal decay, made the Merry Oak very susceptible to the eastern winds of the storm in May 2020. Once claimed by the storm, discussions quickly began to determine the best way to preserve the tree and its legacy.

“When I came here in 2019, that tree was a huge priority. It was one of the first trees I went to see,” King said. “It’s likely the longest documented object at Virginia Tech, and I’m excited to see how this wood can keep telling this story.”

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 TAX LEVIES AND BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing be scheduled for 6:00 P.M. April 7, 2022 on the proposed intention to address the below listed local tax levies for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 upon which matter citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

FURTHER, notice is given of the Board’s intention to propose no increases in the following tax levies for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

Real Estate Property tax levy remains at \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Personal Property tax levy remains at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value.

Machinery & Tools tax levy remains at \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed value.

Merchant’s Capital tax levy remains at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mobile Homes tax levy remains at \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Aircraft tax levy remains at \$1.23 per \$100 of assessed value.

Notice is also given that the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County scheduled a public hearing for 6:15 P.M. or as soon thereafter, April 7, 2022 on the **Advertised Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget** in the amount of \$220,385,913. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
F. CRAIG MEADOWS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Medical products manufacturer  
5. Depletes gradually  
9. Metrical foot used in poetry  
13. Brand of clear wrap  
14. Gabriel was one  
16. Famous for his window's & glass  
18. H. Potter's best friend  
19. Tennessee's flower  
20. Narrow inlet  
21. Puts it on the chopping block  
22. Fed  
23. Hall of Fame DJ Rick  
24. Most loathsome  
27. Farewell (Spanish)  
29. Plant germination vessel  
30. Am. Heart Assoc.

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Mexican dish  
2. Fe  
3. Obstruct  
4. Fixes firmly in platform  
5. Indian frocks  
6. Music, ballet and literature  
7. What part of (abbr.)  
8. More deceitful  
9. Informal term for data  
10. Chinese gelatin  
11. Repair fabric  
12. Nellie \_\_, journalist  
13. Single Lens Reflex  
15. Away from one's home  
17. Mined minerals  
21. Longest division of geological time  
22. Affirm positively  
23. Paul Adrien \_\_, Br. physicist  
25. Ballroom dance  
26. Tai (alt. sp.)

CLUES ACROSS

27. Dental group  
28. Aba \_\_, Honeymoon  
29. Female sibling  
31. Today host Curry  
33. Deriving pleasure from cruelty  
34. Went quickly (archaic)  
35. Kiln for drying hops  
37. Misrepresentation  
38. Absence of sound  
40. Many blood vessels  
42. Satisfies to excess  
43. Glandular fever  
44. Capital city of Shiga, Japan  
45. Hit sharply  
46. This (Spanish)  
47. Payroll tax  
48. Freshwater duck genus  
49. In the past  
50. A small drink of liquor  
51. Own (Scottish)  
52. Daughters of the Am. Revolution



OBITUARIES

Arthur, Chester “Chet” LaRue

...settles into the snow a new fallen leaf that left behind a loving tree...

Former son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, veteran, lay speaker, policeman, Justice of the Peace, author/writer, missionary, home builder, business owner, and friend, Mr. Arthur died surrounded by his family on Feb. 23, 2022.

He was born at home on Sept. 25, 1937, near Lairdsville, Pa. (although his birth certificate is dated 9.27.37), the son of Grant and Jean (Harding) Arthur. A graduate of Hughesville High School, he later attended Elizabethtown College where he was an officer with the campus police department. Mr. Arthur held a B.A. degree from Davis and Elkins College. He lived in seven states over the years and visited over 40.

He was a member of John F. Laedlein Lodge No. 707 F.&A.M., The Valley of Williamsport Scottish Rite Bodies, and Irem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. of Wilkes-

Barre, Penn.

He served in U.S. Army Reserves April 1955-1963.

Chester and his family traveled for two years doing volunteer work full-time. Prior to this, he was involved in home construction and operated his own businesses. He worked for an international company throughout central Pennsylvania for 15 years in the 1960-70s and was well-known to many. He also owned and operated a theme restaurant until he was injured in an accident in the 1980s.

A history “nut,” he wrote and published articles in Now and Then magazine. His interest in genealogy and history gave rise to many stories he created for family and friends.



He was a frequent outspoken activist in Ohio and Iowa where he represented the voice of the average American in local concerns pertaining to health and safety issues.

A popular lay preacher in multiple Ohio churches, he was devoted to the gospel, common-sense, and non-political correctness.

Always an inquiring mind, he collected photographs and information on a clandestine grave of a civil war veteran located in the woods near Montgomery, Penn. This work was quoted by the Sun Gazette in later years.

He loved his family completely.

Chet is survived by his wife, Salinda (Moyer) Arthur; his son Mark Arthur and his wife Rose, their son Jason Skislak and his wife Katie and daughter Lola;

his daughter Rachel Arthur, and her husband Rick Christ, their son Jayden; his daughter Kristina (Arthur) Samson, her husband Nick, and their daughter Brianne; his daughter Sara (Arthur) Roberts, her husband Cody, and son Micah; and his sister Helen George and her daughter Dina George.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Ronald and Larry Arthur, and his parents, Grant and Jean Arthur.

Comfort is found in these words:  
Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am in a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the softly falling snow.  
I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of beautiful birds in circling flight,

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 12Noon, 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.stpeter-sacc.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.sttofc.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 are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in 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: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

**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, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, 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!”

# Montgomery County

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### CITIES OF REFUGE

Read Joshua 18:1 through 20:9

Once the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, it had to be divided amongst the tribes. Joshua asked for a survey to be done, and with that information he carefully assigned each tribe their portion.

Chapter 20 addresses an interesting issue that reflects God’s passion for justice. The “eye for an eye” principle was in vogue in those days, and God wanted justice for those who killed someone accidentally.

“Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.” (Joshua 20:2–3).

What a great picture of Jesus and His compassion for us. Our sins can be accidental or unintentional, but sadly we sometimes disobey on purpose. Yet in either case, Jesus invites us to come to Him, confessing our sin. He promises to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). He provides us the ultimate refuge from our mistakes.

Prayer for Today: Lord, when my thoughts, words, or actions are not pleasing to You, I will run to You because I know You are my “city of refuge.”

Quicklook: Joshua 20:1–9

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

**ECKANKAR**  
**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom,** is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

**EPISCOPAL**  
**Grace Episcopal Church,** 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.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 luthermemorial-

blacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**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**  
**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.

**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

**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. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church,** 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. 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

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church,** 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

**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 574-306-7682. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

# OBITUARIES

I am the starshine of the night.  
I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room.  
I am in the birds that sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there. I did not die.  
-Mary Frye

Following the wishes of the deceased, a private family service will be held at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford later this month. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to Shriners Hospitals for Children (<https://lovetotherescue.org/>), the local masonic lodge, or planting memorial tree(s) in the Appalachian Forest ([www.thetreesremember.com/memorial-trees](http://www.thetreesremember.com/memorial-trees)).

Chet was an avid believer in preparedness so please take this opportunity to ensure your family has enough food and medical supplies on hand for three days in case of emergencies. The Arthur family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Bonds, Kelley Pedro

Kelley Pedro Bonds, 74, born June 30, 1947, to Roscoe and Lizzie Bonds in Pulaski County, passed away on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Bonds is a 1965 graduate of Auburn High School in Riner. He served two years in the U. S. Army as a Military Police Officer at the Presidio, San Francisco, Calif., and after his discharge in 1968, he returned to Montgomery County and worked at RAAP and Mackie Vending Company (Lynchburg Foundry). He retired in 2001 from the Radford University Police Dept. as a Lieutenant after serving 27 years and starting the first detective division in the department. He received his associate degree from New River Community College in correctional officer and criminal justice. Kelley loved to fish and hunt and tend to his vegetable garden.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roscoe and Lizzie Bonds; brothers Abraham, James, and Danny; and a sister, Christine Bonds McNeill.

He is survived by the mother of his sons, Regina Bonds; his three sons, Mike, Donnie (Kim), and Bobby; six grandchildren, Samantha (Rob) Kamasol, Hailey Bonds (Dusty Ray), Jacob Bonds, Tristan Bonds, Micha Bonds, and Jordan Bonds; the lights of his life: his great-granddaughters, Avery Bonds and Kinsley Kamasol; his sister, Shirley Dehart; a brother, DeWayne (Linda) Bonds; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family received friends on Friday, March 25, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with Pastor Scott Obenchain officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Riner Fire and Rescue.

The Bonds family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).



## Cruise, David Lake

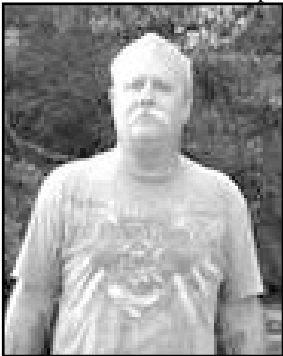
David Lake Cruise, 67, of Montgomery County, went home to be with the lord and all his past loved ones, on Friday, March 18, 2022, at home in Blacksburg, to rejoin with his father, Aubrey Adolphus Cruise; his mother, Mary Francis Cruise; his children, David “Scotty” Cruise, Lindsey Cruise Ford, and Thomas Christopher “Chris” Cruise; his sister, Rodonna Surphin; and his spouse, Deborah Roman Cruise, whom he lost earlier this month. He came into this world in Montgomery County on March 20, 1954.

He was a retired Virginia Tech employee and a faithful member of the Harley-Davidson community. David was dearly loved by all his family and

friends and celebrated the life of his late children. His grandchildren will dearly miss their pawpaw’s presence.

He is survived by his son, David “Shawn” Cruise; sisters Pam Young and Belinda Hypes; nephew John Young; nieces Whitney Young and Mary Dennis; grandchildren Sophia Cruise, Ella Cruise, Peyton Cruise, Aubrey Ford, Casandra Cruise, Oceanna Matney, Joseph Culverhouse, Johnathon Cruise, and Raven Cruise, his Harley-Davidson family, many extended family members, and many dear friends.

He wanted peace in his life, and we all know that peace only comes when God calls us home and may he find peace and comfort in heaven.



## Hawks, Martin Jay

Martin “Marty” Jay Hawks, 52, of United Arab Emirates, formerly of Phoenix, Ariz. and Dublin, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Posie and Mary Hawks, Albert and Mary Long, and Andrew Coleman.

Marty was born Aug. 27, 1969. He graduated from Pulaski County High School and participated in sports activities. He is a graduate of VMI and many lasting friendships were formed during those college years. Marty was a member of Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin, Va. He served in the Army Reserves for over 18 years and was deployed to many areas out of the U. S. as a dedicated service man.

Marty enjoyed Bluegrass music, was adventurous, and he was a people person, never meeting a stranger. He inherited the “gift of gab.”

The family wishes to thank everyone that assisted with his travel back home to Dublin, Va., and the many calls and food from friends and family.

Left to cherish his memory are his sons, Alexander James Hawks and Nicholas George Hawks, both of Calif.; parents, Phillips and Sandra Hawks of Dublin, Va.; brothers, Richard

Andrew Hawks of Lillydell, Va., and David Wayne Hawks of Kernersville, N.C.; sister, Tammy Hawks Windle and her husband Tim Windle of Salisbury, N. C.; nephew, Christopher Chase Sarver of Ohio; nieces, Zoey Elizabeth Hawks of Kernersville, N. C., and DeAnna Leigh Hawks of Lillydell, Va.; grandmother, Ann Sunman of Penn.; special friend, Niovelyn Layan; mother of his sons, Janet Hawks of Calif.; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and an abundance of friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, Va. Graveside services with full military honors will follow at 3 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Va.

The family will receive friends from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the CID Agents Association at <https://cidaa.net/donations.html>.

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



## Lawson, Randell “Randy” Keith

Randell “Randy” Keith Lawson, 66, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, March 19, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Noblin Lawson, Sr. and Frances DeHart Lawson; sister, Sherry Lawson Duncan; and brother, Joseph “Buddy” Noblin Lawson, Jr.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Diane Somers Lawson; his children, Mark (Chasity) Lawson, Adam Lawson, Heather (Randy) Cunningham, Johanna Lawson, Robert Lawson, and Chelsea Ward; grandchildren, Gavin, Riley, Ava, Caden, Easton, Zachary, Joshua, Elena, and Allison; brother, Curtis (Sandra) Lawson; sister-in-law, Connie Lawson; brother-in-law, Rudy Duncan; his

beloved canine companion, Lucy; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Randy treasured his family and friends. He was passionate about his drums and his time spent in the music industry where he was known as the “sound man extraordinaire.” Randy will be remembered for his realistic world point of view, sprinkled with his colorful sense of humor.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at Fairlawn Baptist Church with Pastor Gregory Harrell officiating.

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

## Layman, Jane Brugh

Jane Brugh Layman, 87, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully at her home with family on Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Jane Watson Brugh was born in Troutville, Va., on Aug. 13, 1934, to the late Max Brugh and Lois Webster Brugh, and she spent a wonderful childhood in Nace, Va.

She attended Longwood College and graduated in 1957 with degrees in biology and math. After college, she worked as a mathematician for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Hampton. She married John William Layman at Millcreek Baptist Church in 1961.

She was a devoted wife and mother, raising and loving her four children. She was active at Blacksburg Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday School teacher for four-year-olds and volunteered with the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry for over 20 years. Jane enjoyed serving with her Women’s Missionary Union

Missions and More Circle Group, and she blessed countless people over the years with her encouraging letters and cards. Jane also loved baking pies and cookies, birdwatching, and tending her flower gardens.

Jane is survived by her brother, Max Brugh, Jr., and her children, John Eric (Terri), Charles (Sharon), Rachel, and Beth (John); her eight grandchildren, Max, Andrew (Sarah), Megan, Anna, Dexter, Elsie, Katie, and Iris, who adored their grandmother and loved spending time with her, reading and baking cookies. She recently met her first great-grandchild, Levi. She will be greatly missed.

The family greeted friends and relatives at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg on Friday, March 25, 2022. Memorial services will be held today, Saturday, March 26, at Blacksburg Baptist Church at 2 p.m. She will be laid to rest at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg.



## Halwa Bakery bakes winner for YMCA at VT's Try Y's Pi contest

The second annual YMCA at Virginia Tech Try Y's Pi contest took place on March 14 (3.14) in partnership with Our Daily Bread, Next Door Bake Shop, Blacksburg Bagels, Bollo’s, and Halwa Bakery with Halwa Bakery’s Kenafa Pistachio Cream Pie voted the winner.

Participants purchased tickets for a 5-piece pie sampler. Each sampler contained a piece of pie from each of the five bakeries.

Blacksburg Bagels provided a Sweet Potato Pie; Bollo’s provided an Apple Crumb Pie; Next Door Bake Shop provided a Coconut Cream Pie; Our Daily Bread provided a Ginger Peach Pie, and Halwa Bakery provided the winner, a Kenafa, Pistachio Cream Pie.

Karmen G, owner and head baker at Halwa Bakery, was born in Egypt with Lebanese heritage from both parents. Karmen said, “My bakery’s name Halwa comes from the Arabic word for sweets, dessert and beautiful. I chose it because it represents what I do.”

When asked to participate in the event Karmen didn’t hesitate. She said she “specially supports what the YMCA is providing to create opportunities for people to improve their lives and their communities. What’s better than that reason?”

Karmen said, “I came with Kenafa pistachio cream pie which wasn’t a traditional pie but I wanted to share my culture through it. When they announced the winner, it meant a lot to my heart. I wanted to

share it with my dad because he always believed in me. I’m sure he’s watching from heaven. I’m thrilled and honored to be the winner. Thank you so much YMCA and voters.”

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter “π”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math, and to eat pie.

Proceeds from this event support the YMCA at VT Meals On Main program that feeds children in the New River Valley.

## Thorp

from page 1

Thorp began his teaching career as a visiting instructor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1981 and then spent three years at East Carolina University. He returned to Virginia Tech in 1986 and has taught there ever since, earning university awards both for teaching and undergraduate advising. He is currently an associate professor of history. He has also taught at Sunderland University in England and spent six months as a Fulbright Scholar in Wellington, New Zealand.

Professor Thorp’s research has spanned a range of topics in American history from 17th Century Maine to 20th Century Virginia to comparative US-New Zealand history. He is the author of almost two dozen articles or book chapters and four books: The Moravian Community in Colonial North Carolina; Lewis & Clark: An American Journey; Facing Freedom: An African American Community in Virginia from Reconstruction to Jim Crow; and In the True Blue’s Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation. He is currently working on a number of projects that he hopes will result in further publications.

Daniel Thorp was born in North Carolina but grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. He earned both a masters and

a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University.

Thorp’s research has spanned a range of topics in American history from 17th Century Maine to 20th Century Virginia to comparative US-New Zealand history. He is the author of almost two dozen articles or book chapters and four books: The Moravian Community in Colonial North Carolina; Lewis & Clark: An American Journey; Facing Freedom: An African American Community in Virginia from Reconstruction to Jim Crow; and In the True Blue’s Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation. He is currently working on a number of projects that he hopes will result in further publications.

Professor Thorp’s research has spanned a

## Solar

from page 1

Climate Action Commitment, which calls for 100 percent renewable electricity on the Blacksburg campus by 2030,” said Chris Kiwus, interim senior vice president and chief business officer. This is a strong step toward that goal.”

Along with delivering onsite renewable energy, the new solar arrays will help bolster climate action education

and engagement opportunities over the long term. Students and researchers will be able to access the solar arrays and monitor real-time generation data to analyze trends in energy usage on campus. This will help inform operations and sustainability outreach campaigns and equip the next generation of climate action leaders with practical training.

Send community  
news and photos to  
[communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg high jumper wins national title

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Blacksburg High School senior Katja Kehlenbeck cleared 5'5" at the Nike Indoor Nationals track meet last week to claim the national championship.

Her jump was the second highest indoor mark in the history of Blacksburg High School.

Kehlenbeck said she had absolutely no idea that it was remotely possible she could win the national championship.

"My approach has become more consistent, and I've gained more muscle compared to me from last year, and my overall mental state has improved, and I'm getting rid of my mental block," Kehlenbeck said. "I've worked on my sleep schedule and have been doing visualizations during practice, and doing that is a big aspect for me to be able to high jump."

The mark would have placed 14th at the recent Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor collegiate championships, and Kehlenbeck does have some higher aspira-

tions, maybe even staying close to home at the next level.

"I want to go D1 for the high jump, I enjoy it way too much to not go forward with it," Kehlenbeck said. "For college I was thinking about getting out of Blacksburg, but there's always the possibility that I would stay here to go to Virginia Tech.

"I'm not really going for a specific height but having the school record for indoor and outdoor and having a state champion title again along with the height of 5-8 would be nice to obtain," she said.

Kehlenbeck's leap is a new personal record and is tied for first in Virginia's Class 4 rankings with Hannah Pettyjohn of Jefferson Forest. Kehlenbeck did outjump Pettyjohn in the recent state indoor meet, finishing second. She finished fifth in last year's outdoor state event with a mark of 5-0.

Paula Girven of Garfield High School holds the Virginia record at 6-1.25 set in 1975.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATJA KEHLENBECK

**Blacksburg high jumper Katja Kehlenbeck won a national championship last week by clearing 5'5" at the Nike Indoor Nationals track meet.**

## Hokies, BC to play at Fenway Park

As announced by the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday, the Virginia Tech baseball team will oppose Boston College at Fenway Park on Saturday, April 23, when the Hokies play BC during the Eagles' 10th annual ALS Awareness Game. First pitch at America's Most Beloved Ballpark is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Tech's April 23 game at Boston College is the middle game of the programs' three-game ACC series that will run from April 22-April 24. The Hokies and the Eagles will contest Friday's series opener and Sunday's series finale at Harrington Athletics Village in Brighton, Massachusetts.

Boston College's ALS Awareness Game is played in

honor of former BC baseball captain Pete Frates, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2012. Frates became inspirational in spreading ALS awareness through his iconic Ice Bucket Challenge – a social media trend where participants drench themselves in ice water while encouraging donations to fund further ALS research.

Frates tragically passed away in 2019 at the age of 34. To this day, the Team Frate Train organization and the Peter Frates Foundation continue to promote his legacy while supporting all who courageously fight this disease.

Virginia Tech will be making its first-ever appearance at Fenway Park. The Hokies last competed inside

an MLB ballpark during the 1998 Atlantic 10 Baseball Championship that was held at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (home of the Philadelphia Phillies).

General admission tickets for the 2022 ALS Awareness Game at Fenway Park are available at \$10 and can be purchased at [redsox.com/alsgame](https://www.redsox.com/alsgame). Proceeds will benefit the Peter Frates Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting ALS patients and their families with the cost of specialized home care required for patient stability as the disease progresses.

The 2022 ALS Awareness Game will also air live on ACC Network.

## Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by late 2022.

**ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Beginning April 11, 2022, Route 615 (Pilot Road) will undergo a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Single lane closures will be in place and will be maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals. Lane closures on RTE 615 are expected to begin on May 2, 2022, and will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

**ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT** - A project is underway to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

**UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 and Route 8 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This

work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

### INTERSTATE 81

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes began in February and will continue into the early summer. Work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

To mid-April, daytime right shoulder closures will take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday

Until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures will be in effect between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

From mid-May to mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures will be in effect during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

**I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE** - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will be closed from late May 2022 until early September 2022. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by 10 to 13 spaces. Visitors to the rest area may see some preliminary work, such as drainage

improvements, as early as this spring. However, the major construction will begin after Memorial Day, and the rest area facility, ramps, and parking lot will be closed to the public from late May until early September. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

**INTERSTATE 81 BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS** – Due to bridge painting, several height restrictions are in place along I-81 north and southbound. Maximum height allowed is 14'6" at the following bridges over I-81 at the mile marker locations of 135, 109 and 108 through March. Overheight vehicles will need to be rerouted. Message boards are in place.

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143** – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 is underway. All lanes are now open and will remain open through the winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume with the next paving season in spring 2022. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 POT HOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

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## What Does Game Time Mean?

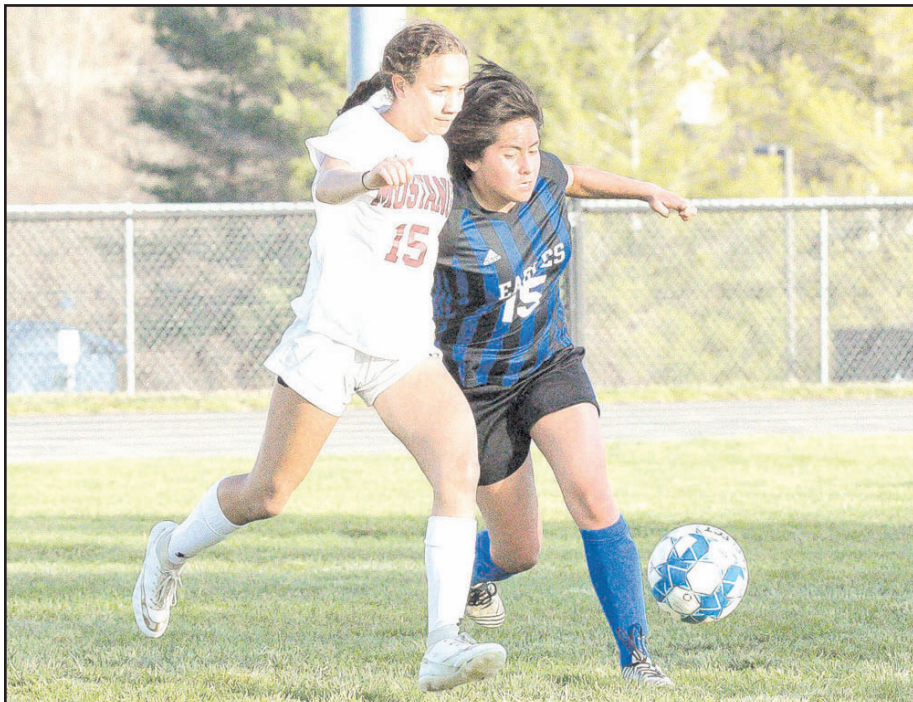
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# East Mont girls soccer downs Auburn



Eastern Montgomery's Aija McHone (left) works up the field on the attack in Tuesday's girls' soccer game against Auburn in a 4-1 win.



Auburn's Stacy Lewis breaks through the Eastern Montgomery defense.

PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS

## Christiansburg's Jaxson Clarke to play football at VMI

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Christiansburg senior defensive back Jaxson Clarke has become the sixth Blue Demon player to play college football in the fall with his announcement that he will suit up for Virginia Military Institute (VMI).

Clarke calls the school a great one overall as the connections are limitless on and off the field.

"The school is a good size for me to have more one-on-one time in the classroom. The football program is great, and I really felt welcome there," he said.

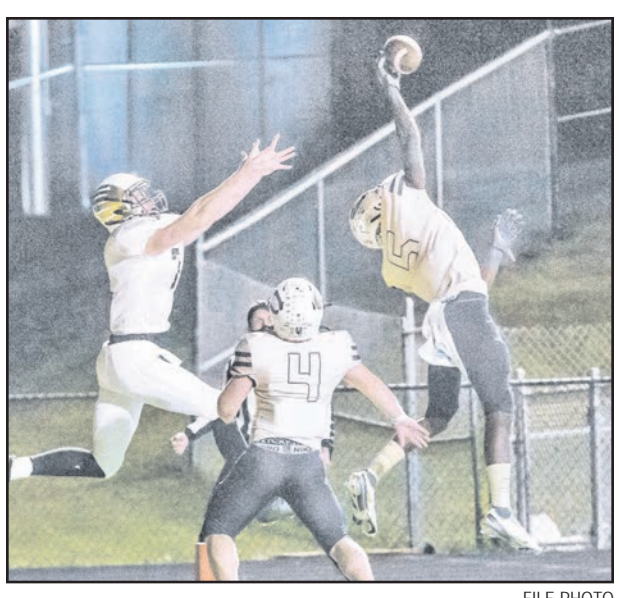
Virginia Military Institute is a public senior military college in Lexington,

Va. It was founded in 1839 as America's first state military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the country. The school has a current enrollment of 1,698 students.

VMI's football team plays in the Southern Conference and finished 6-5 this past season.

The 6-2, 185-lb. Clarke finished his high school career with 60.5 tackles, including 43 solos and three tackles for loss. He also played receiver at Christiansburg and has the option to play both positions at his new school.

"The coaches have really made it feel like home, and that I was wanted there," Clarke said. "They were straight up with me and told me basically I have



Christiansburg's Jaxson Clarke (#5) grabs an interception against Staunton River.

FILE PHOTO

a good frame and I am a good enough athlete to compete with the guys at practice."

His overall goal is to graduate, have a successful four years of football, and leave VMI being the best version of himself he could be.

"I have a lot to learn in a lot of areas to improve,

but I know I can benefit from attending VMI," he said.

Clarke's dad was in the military, and the former Blue Demon believes VMI's daily routine will help make him a better person overall.

Clarke hopes to major in either psychology or business management.

## Racquetball tournament winners



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Radford Recreation Department has announced the winners of its recent David Dehart Memorial Racquetball Tournament. Pictured (from left) are Lew Davis and Dave Diesel (second-place), and Charles Tenters and Sean Gaynor (first-place).

MEDICAL | DENTAL | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A new friend is something to smile about.

**Tahsin Anwar, DDS**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Tahsin Anwar to the Community Health Center of the New River Valley's dental department. She will practice in Christiansburg.

A graduate of Virginia Tech and Roseman University of Health Sciences in Utah, Dr. Anwar completed her residency at Carilion Clinic General Practice. She joins us after several years working in the community health center setting.

Dr. Anwar is fluent in English and Bengali and speaks Spanish conversationally. Her treatment philosophy focuses on treating her patients without judgment, providing quality care regardless of the circumstances, and empowering individuals to take control of their health and well-being.

Dr. Anwar has an impressive background in service and leadership positions. Her interests include yoga and wellness.

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MONTGOMERY CENTER | 540.381.0820  
215 Roanoke Street | Christiansburg, VA 24073

DUBLIN CENTER | 540.585.1310  
5826 Ruebush Road | Dublin, VA 24084

GILES HIGH SCHOOL | 540.381.0820  
1825 Wenonah Ave | Pearisburg, VA 24134

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of the New River Valley

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[chcnrv.org](https://chcnrv.org)

Community Health Center accepts patients with or without insurance.

## More details on Tech's spring game

The Virginia Tech Department of Athletics is sharing additional details surrounding the "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" event, an expanded weekend in Blacksburg surrounding Tech Football's annual Spring Game, presented by PMSi. The Spring Game will take place on April 16, will begin at 4:00 p.m., and will be televised live on the ACC Network.

Tickets will be sold for \$5 (all general admission seating), in addition to providing the opportunity for fans to add an optional donation to the Hokie Club, creating another unique opportunity for all fans to continue to impact the Drive for 25, the Hokie Club's annual membership goal of over 25,000 members.

Tickets will be available beginning Tuesday, March 29 at 10 a.m. All tickets will be ordered online and will be delivered via mobile delivery or print-at-home, including tickets ordered on

game day. Fans are encouraged to order tickets in advance to ensure a seamless game-day experience.

Students will be able to claim a complimentary ticket through the standard lottery process for regular season games. More information will be shared with students in early April.

Suite holders will be communicated with directly in the next few days regarding available options for their suites.

Parking will be available in all open on- and off-campus lots. Similar to previous years, parking will be free of charge and will be first come, first-served. As always, tailgating will be a memorable part of the entire Tech football experience.

The inaugural "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" will take place from April 14-16 and will offer Hokie Nation the chance to cheer on a number of Tech sports, including softball versus

Virginia (games on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday), baseball versus Miami (games on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) and men's tennis versus Boston College (Friday).

Registration is also now open for Virginia Tech's annual 3.2-mile Run in Remembrance, which will take place that Saturday, April 16. The event will begin with a moment of silence at 9:43 a.m. to honor and remember the lives of the 32 students and faculty who were tragically taken from us in 2007. The event's 3.2-mile loop around the Blacksburg campus begins and ends on the Virginia Tech Drillfield near the April 16 Memorial and passes by landmarks such as the Duck Pond, the Grove, and the Virginia Tech Pylons and will take runners and walkers through Lane Stadium.

Registration details, T-shirt purchasing options, and event updates are available at [RecSports.VT.edu/RunFor32](https://RecSports.VT.edu/RunFor32). More information on Day of Remembrance activities is available at [WeRemember.VT.edu](https://WeRemember.VT.edu).

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2022-23 Unified Planning Work Program. The UPWP provides an annual schedule of activities, lists planning tasks and studies, and identifies funding sources. A draft plan is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County offices. It is also available on the MPO website: [www.montgomerycountyva.gov/mpo](https://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/mpo)

Deadline for written comments: 5:00 PM April 20, 2022

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM on May 5, 2022 at the Montgomery County Government Center if it is held.

Comments can also address transit projects for which Federal operating and capital assistance will be sought under 49 USC Section 5303, as well as other transportation modes.

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov) or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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