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Saturday, October 15, 2022

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

CHS celebrates homecoming with parade



The CHS Cadet Corps marched in formation behind the American flag to kick off the homecoming parade.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SLYNN MCMINN

Senior Christiansburg homecoming court members Faith Sarver and David Currie rode the length of the parade in a convertible.

With a big crowd lining both sides of downtown Main Street Wednesday night, Christiansburg High School celebrated homecoming 2022 with a parade that featured music from the CHS Marching Band; sharp, synchronized marching from the CHS Cadet Corps;

shaking pom poms from the school's cheerleaders; homecoming court members; and various athletic teams from football to wrestling and volleyball. They were all part of the night's fun that came complete with any number of convertibles, flatbed trailers, and floats.

The parade began at 7 p.m. and traversed the length of Main Street, beginning at the post office and ending at Burger King.

- News Messenger staff report

Four seek spots on Radford School Board

Four candidates have qualified to run for the Radford School Board: Chris Calfee, Ed Dickenson, Jane Swing, and Gloria Boyd.



Chris Calfee

Chris Calfee

A lifelong resident of Radford, Chris Calfee has been in the banking industry for 20 years, most of it as a branch manager. Presently, he is a commercial lender with Summit Community Bank in



Gloria Boyd

Christiansburg. He is also a community representative for the President's Board of New River Community College and was recently voted the board's vice-chair. He is also an alumnus of Liberty University, having received his bachelor of business



Ed Dickenson

administration degree from Liberty.

His wife, Becki, and he met at Radford High School 30 years ago where they were both members of the Marching Bobcat Band and went to church together. They still volunteer and play an active role with



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jane Swing

the Bobcat band.

Chris says his drive led him to his decision to run for school board, having heard from many parents, teachers, and

See **Candidates**, page 3

Montgomery Museum of Arts and History receives \$40,000 gift

This past September, the Montgomery Museum of Art and History received a \$40,000 gift from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr., Charitable Foundation Trust.

The museum, which celebrated its Grand Re-Opening on October 1, will allocate the funds toward its ongoing capital campaign and building fund to support the purchase, enhancement, and renovations of the facility.

The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation, which designates Truist as a trustee of the foundation, has six primary areas of focus. The first is to provide support to one or more museums in Virginia cities and towns having a population of less than 100,000 people.

"We are so grateful to the Patterson Charitable Foundation Trust for this generous support," said Casey Jenkins, the museum's executive director. "The museum is in the midst of great positive momentum and this gift of \$40,000 will greatly enhance our ability to provide a premier cultural destination for Montgomery County and the New River Valley."

The museum's new 15,000 square-foot building currently features a traveling exhibit from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture titled "Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today." This exhibition highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female change-makers who brought about positive change in their communities, the commonwealth, and the nation. They also created new models of female empowerment and new opportunities for women, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equal society. The traveling exhibit is made possible by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. G Gilmer Minor III. This exhibit will be on display through early November.

See **Museum**, page 4

Virginia Tech celebrates Homecoming

By Julie Flanagan
Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech celebrated Homecoming from Monday, Oct. 10, through today, Oct. 15 with a schedule full of events for students, alumni, community members, and friends.

The festivities began Monday evening with the Homecoming Kickoff featuring music, food trucks, and a chance to meet the Homecoming Court candidates.

Student-focused activities were hosted throughout the week, including a Homecoming Showcase Tuesday and a Thursday comedy show presented by the Black Student Alliance featuring DeRay Davis.

Homecoming Weekend officially began Friday, with a Pass in Review at 3:30 p.m. from the VT Corps of Cadets in honor of the Class of 1972. Young alumni can meet at Hokie House for happy hour, and Cornerstone alumni gathered for a special homecoming parade watching party. A time-honored tradition, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech celebrated homecoming week from Monday, Oct. 10, through today, Saturday, Oct. 15 with a full schedule of events ranging from the traditional homecoming parade to fireworks over the Drillfield. This particular homecoming was one-of-a-kind since it marked Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial, its 150th anniversary.

homecoming parade began at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14. The parade traveled from Main Street to Alumni Mall and celebrated some of the best that Virginia Tech has to offer. Kristi Castlin '10, seven-time All-American, three-time ACC champion, and bronze medalist at the 2016 Olympics, served as the parade's grand marshal. In continuing to

honor Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial, a special projection is being displayed on Torgersen Bridge, 620 Drillfield Drive at Alumni Mall today, Oct. 15, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 16, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. This portrayal of 150 years of the university will explore history with photos, videos, and sound played

on a loop during the parade and after.

The event is also open to the public today and Sunday inside the Cube at the Moss Arts Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The weekend celebration concluded Friday, Oct. 14, with the spirit rally with live music from Dan Marshall and a fireworks display over the Drillfield.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 15:

Local studio to celebrate National Paint Your Own Pottery Day

Paint Your Own Pottery (PYOP) stores around the country will offer special classes and events to celebrate National PYOP Day. Paint 'n Fun Ceramics in Christiansburg will be participating with activities for everyone in the family.

Radford Reads

Mystery author Katharine Schellman will talk about two of her new books, "Death at the Manor" (Lily Adler series, Book 3), and "Last Call at the Nightingale" at the Radford Public Library at 3 p.m. Blacksburg Books will be present to sell copies of Katharine's books. This event was made possible by the Lamplighters.

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library from noon to 1 p.m. Participants may sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. For all ages. Email spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

Sunday, Oct. 16:

Author Talk with Jane Goette

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Jane Goette will talk about her book "A River Road Memoir," a journey through a young girl's idyllic childhood in the rural South to her restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle becomes urgent and personal to her family. This unfolding story is told through the second daughter's eyes. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Linda Spivey at 540-382-6969, ext. 221.

Monday, Oct. 17:

Candidate forum

In conjunction with the League of Women Voters, the NAACP and the Radford Chamber of Commerce, a Radford City School Board Candidate forum will take place at the Radford High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Pokémon club

At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

Halloween costume mania

At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. This is a chance to pick up a Halloween costume for trick-or-treating by coming by the library's annual costume giveaway. Costumes are for a free program on Monday, Oct. 17 at the Meadowbrook Library from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Gently used or new costumes and accessories are available in most sizes while supplies last.

Water and Waste Committee meeting

The Christiansburg water and waste committee will meet at town hall in the administrative conference room, 100 E. Main St. from 5 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 18:

Candidates meet and greet

The Radford Heritage Foundation will host a Meet and Greet with the candidates for mayor and the Radford City Council from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is being held at the Glencoe Mansion and is open to the public.

Adverse childhood experiences training with NRVCS

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. New River Valley Community Service's Community Outreach and Wellness Specialists Dee Frith and Caroline Mullins will present a training session on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This training will focus on trauma and resiliency with a strong message of hope. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch.

Hallosteam

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. Attendees can find out how things glow in the dark by making some spooky glowing crafts. Ages 6 and up.

Wednesday, Oct. 19:

American Business Women's Association October luncheon meeting

The American Business Women's Association will hold its October luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg. The speaker will be Dr. Barbara Johnson, who will speak on women's health. Theda Blackwood of Theorem is the speaker sponsor for this event. RSVP by Oct. 17, 2022, by contacting Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com.

Art Club: Mexican folk art and Día de los Muertos

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants will explore Mexican folk art and the art surrounding Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), including the creation of some sugar skull art pieces. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

Library Board of Trustees meeting

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 20:

Radford Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Sharon Gilbert of Radford will talk about the different formats she uses to print her photos, such as ceramic tile, wood, slate, and metal. The club's meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for October is pets. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Bright Star Theater will present a performance of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" at the Radford Public Library at 5 p.m. Follow Ichabod Crane as he becomes the schoolmaster in Sleepy Hollow and encounters spooky events he will ever forget. Appropriate for ages 4+. Sponsored by the Lamplighters.

Saturday, Oct. 22:

Blacksburg leaf compost pickup

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the Town of Blacksburg will be composted into leaf mulch, which can be used as a soil additive or for composting and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup.

Register at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10139/304?backlist=%2fhome%2f-fsiteid-1#!/>.

Sons of Norway meeting

For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), interesting programs, and activities on heritage and culture presented by the local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization on the fourth Saturday of each month (except for special events), from 7 to 8 p.m., at College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Ave., in Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

Fall children's consignment sale

Blacksburg United Methodist Church's semi-annual consignment sale of children's items will take place at the Whisner Building of the main church campus, 111 Church Street in Blacksburg from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Shoppers can find great deals on gently used kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, games, movies, baby gear and accessories, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new. Some are even brand-new. Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but shoppers will need to come early for the best selection. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

150th Church Anniversary and Homecoming

First Missionary Baptist Church-New River, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn will celebrate its 150th anniversary all weekend long. Church pastor the Rev. Richard A. Goodman, Sr., and Sister Carla Harvey will be the speakers at 3 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23:

150th Church Anniversary and Homecoming

Homecoming continues at the First Missionary Baptist Church-New River, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn in celebration of the church's 150th anniversary. The Rev. Richard A. Goodman, Sr., the church pastor and the Rev. Lee Pusha, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Roanoke, will speak at 3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 24:

Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at the Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg with a closed session beginning at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and are 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.

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will meet in Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St. at 7 p.m. The agenda can be found at www.radfordva.gov.

Tuesday, Oct. 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The Blacksburg Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. The meeting is open to the public and will be televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.).

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce training

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will host "Citizen Response to Active Threats and Personal Safety" training in the community room at the new Blacksburg Police Department, 200 East Clay St., Blacksburg from 10 a.m. to noon. This training session is open to all businesses, faith communities, school personnel and civic organizations and will be conducted by law enforcement personnel from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Blacksburg Police, Christiansburg Police, and Virginia Tech Police departments. The training is free to members of the chamber and is \$10 for non-members. Register at <https://www.montgomerycc.org/events/details/citizen-response-to-active-threats-and-personal-safety-9023>.

Ongoing:

Stormwater utility credits available

Residents within the Town of Blacksburg who have a stormwater facility on their site may qualify for a credit on their monthly stormwater utility fee. Go

See Upcoming Events, page 3

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TIP AMENDMENT #5

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The purpose of the amendment is to add projects to fund track upgrades and station development for extension of passenger rail to the New River Valley. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org

Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 18, 2022.

The public can also speak at the November 3, 2022 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

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 or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR AMENDMENT #2 TO THE 2045 CL RTP

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2045 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CL RTP). The purpose of the amendment is to add projects to fund track upgrades and station development for extension of passenger rail to the New River Valley. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org

Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 18, 2022.

The public can also speak at the November 3, 2022 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.

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Candidates

from page 1

students about their concerns. He attends school board meetings regularly, speaking out about what he was hearing and seeing. "I learned quickly that not everyone is comfortable speaking out or voicing their opinion, so I tried to help," he said. "When the option to run for a seat at the board came open, it only made sense that I would run for office so that all parents, teachers, and students could get a representative voice at the table."

Gloria Boyd

Gloria Boyd is a lifelong resident of Radford who married Dwight Boyd, another lifelong Radford resident. Their three adult children were educated in the Radford City Schools. She received a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from what is now Radford University.

She taught seven years in Pulaski County and spent 20 years in the Radford City Schools teaching in grades ranging from kindergarten to second grade before retiring in 2019. She also has four years of private preschool experience and 11 years as a prepared childbirth instructor.

She says she feels called to support Radford's families and children to ensure a quality academic education and plans to be a voice for all stakeholders: families, students, faculty and staff as well as taxpayers. "I want to protect teachers and the integrity of their classroom instruction. We must make our schools peaceful, respectful places of solid academic instruction again," she says.

Ed Dickenson

Ed Dickenson is a Radford resident of 12 years, living on Ingles Mountain with his wife Jessica and son Grant who attends McHarg Elementary. He is a licensed home inspector and the owner of a small business, Solid Spec Home Inspection Services. As a home inspector he enjoys educating homeowners about all aspects of their home and he especially enjoys conducting "building forensics" to determine the cause of, or the potential for, costly issues.

He is retired from the Army National Guard with close to 22 years of service, both active and part time. Assignments during his military career include being a soldier in local infantry units, recruiting and retention, and brigade operations. His other previous work history includes five years as a Deputy Sheriff in Roanoke County

and five years working as an operations manager for DataSafe Inc.

He studied business management at Virginia Tech after high school and before joining the military. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, teaching home maintenance and improvement classes to new homeowners. He also volunteers as a regional leader for the Virginia National Guard Family Programs, acting as a contact for military families and coordinating donations of school supplies and Christmas gifts for military families and local families in need.

He says he is seeking election to the school board because he wants to ensure that teachers and parents have the support and resources they need to provide for a positive educational experience for the children. If elected, he will use the following concepts as his guiding principles:

He believes there is a critical obligation to educate children and provide for their future success. A school system has one main goal and purpose: to educate children properly and effectively. The main resource to accomplish this is the teachers, and the administration and school leadership are duty-bound to support the teachers. Parental involvement and responsibility in education should be both fostered and welcomed. Politics have no place in the administration of education. Transparency and fiscal responsibility are crucial for public reporting and government accountability. He believes that his military leadership and management experience will allow him to make goal-directed, logical, and reality-based decisions if he is elected. He wants to bring his diverse skill set to the board to provide competent and common-sense guidance.

Jane Swing

Jane Swing is a retired career educator who has worked in K-12 Special Education programs in North Carolina and Arkansas. After earning an advanced degree from Radford University, she worked in adult education and literacy programs through New River Community College. She taught classes at Volvo, Radford Foundry, and Radford University in addition to public classes offered in various locations throughout the New River Valley.

When Radford City Schools contracted with the New River offices to provide instruction for their alternate education students, she was hired as the instructor for

that class. She was employed at Radford University as the Director of the Office of Adult Education and Literacy, which worked directly with the Office of Adult Education and Learning in the Virginia Department of Education in Richmond. As the director, she organized meetings and staff development for adult educators across the commonwealth.

She contracted with venues for meeting space, food, lodging, and all the other necessities at their site. She also contracted with state and national speakers to lead sessions during these meetings. She oversaw the writing of content standards for adult education programs in Virginia by securing the participation of field experts, program managers, adult education specialists, and teachers from the adult education programs across the state. This was a two-year process involving reaching, writing, revising, and editing.

During her tenure at Radford University, she secured grant money for sixty-two projects totaling over \$5 million. She has worked with a diverse group of stakeholders throughout her career that included students, teachers, administrators, state agency officials, and business and industry groups.

She also worked as a substitute teacher for Radford City Schools and has volunteered with Radford City Schools as a classroom parent, a Book Fair assistant, and a band parent responsible for uniforms in addition to donating food for band kids and providing transportation and support for all their performances and programs. She assisted with the band fruit drive by driving band members around communities to collect orders. She also sorted fruit when it arrived and helped to deliver orders.

She continues to give her time, finances, and talents to the community through Meals on Wheels, Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, The American Red Cross, and faith-based community activities.

She believes literacy, education, and access to opportunities are key factors, not only for the growth and development of the community's children but also for the growth of the city.

- Radford Chamber of Commerce

Montgomery County human resources director receives champions award

Upcoming Jessie Peterman Memorial Library events

Jessie Peterman memorial Library has the following events scheduled for the remainder of the month of October:

Thursday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m.: Something Spooky This Way Comes: Teen rock painting

Some Halloween-themed fun will take place in the community room as teens will be painting rocks with designs and scenes inspired by all things Halloween.

See **Library Events**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER TATUM HARRIS, MONTGOMERY CO. PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Montgomery County's Human Resources Director Clay McCoy was recently awarded the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Champions Award for efforts to employ DARS clients and spread awareness of the program and opportunities throughout the New River Valley. Pictured, left to right, are Angie Hill, Montgomery County Deputy County Administrator and CFO; Clay McCoy, Montgomery County Human Resources Director; Matt Herron, DARS Job Placement Counselor; and Amy Heinline, DARS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Upcoming Events

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to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to determine eligibility. The deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 2023. For questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Coat Drive in Memory of Cindy Collins

Underway at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3, may be dropped off at Meadowbrook Public Library. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

Applications underway for NRV Master

Gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association is now accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants awarded based on merit to educational, caregiving or community-based organizations seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve the quality of life through a gardening-related project. Applications are open to the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) and the City of Radford. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by today, Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit project applications, contact Carol Trutt: 540-239-9591 caroltrutt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but applications may be mailed to Carol at the following address: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Friday October 28th @ 4 PM
Recreational Retreat for Sale
on Roanoke River North Fork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase a great piece of land in Elliston VA! This property showcases a 28.892 acre tract of timberland on the far side of Roanoke River. Tract has a ROW to location where ford or bridge is needed. Last timber cruised in 2011: approx. 75% hardwoods. Long river frontage with great fishing.

Directions – From Ironto exit on I-81, go northwest on North Fork Rd. Past truck stop to private road on left just before RR bridge over N.F. Road. See signs.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required day of sale. Close on or before December 12th, 2022. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at
540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com;
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Virginia Tech undergraduate student senate's (USS) second annual inauguration set to take place Oct. 19



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUWAN JACOBS

Last year's inaugural class of the Undergraduate Student Senate outside of Burruss Hall.

"Everyone is welcome," said Mallory Fields, student advisor and co-coordinator of the inauguration, "We encourage anyone in the Hokie Community with an interest in the event to come."

The inauguration is scheduled to take place on the second floor of Squires Student Center in the Commonwealth Ballroom.

Doors are set to open at 6 p.m. The official ceremony will start at 6:30 p.m.

Upon arrival, guests will be asked to check in at the USS tables outside of Commonwealth Ballroom. Virginia Tech students should bring their Hokie Passports for check-in.

For the first time, attendees will have the opportunity to hear current USS President

Caroline Lohr deliver the Hokie address to the student body and elected senate members. Other presenters include Fields; Kat Nelson, deputy director for the USS; and a soon-to-be announced guest speaker.

"Our inauguration is a pivotal moment for newly elected officials," said Mikey Ventura, USS elections commissioner and director of membership development, "They are sworn in and officially become a member of the USS. It is a celebration and a ceremony."

The USS will welcome 17 senators at-large, 28 college senators, 15 university-chartered student organization senators, and seven cabinet members to serve for the 2022-23 academic year. The cabinet members include incumbents Lohr, a senior majoring in psychology, and Vice President of Issues and Policy Ainsley Cragin, a sophomore studying

Special Torgersen Bridge projection to review VT's 150 years of history tonight and Sunday

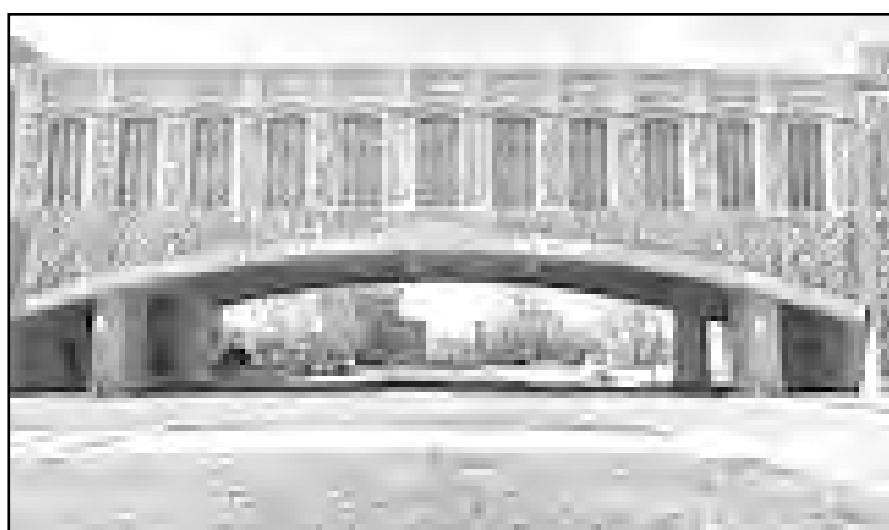


PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

As part of homecoming weekend, Torgersen Bridge will be the site of a special projection tonight and Sunday, Oct. 16, portraying VT's 150 years of history.

In honor of VT's sesquicentennial, a special projection will be displayed on Alumni Mall's Torgersen Bridge, pictured above, at 620 Drillfield Drive, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. tonight and Sunday, Oct. 15 and 16. The projection is a portrayal of 150 years of the university and will explore history with photos, videos, and sound played on a loop. The event is free and open to the public. The public can also view the projection inside the Cube at the Moss Arts Center today and Sunday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

News Messenger

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(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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Library Events

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Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 3 p.m.: We Can All Use a Little Help: A Certified Peer Recovery Specialist from the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting. Anyone who would like to add connection and support into their lives is welcome to take part. Certified Peer

Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. These meetings will provide a safe, non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness. There is no need to sign up.

Saturday, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. Head to the library for a dress-up Halloween party and a ghastly good Time with games, snacks, a devilishly good story, and maybe even a scary dance party. All ages are welcome.

Museum

from page 1

To supplement the state museum exhibit, the Montgomery Museum also premiered its own history exhibit on local, historical women of Montgomery County titled "Making a Difference: Women who Changed Montgomery County." Featuring a group of women from across the county, this exhibit honors women business owners, women who broke gender boundaries in politics and education, and women who worked tirelessly to make their

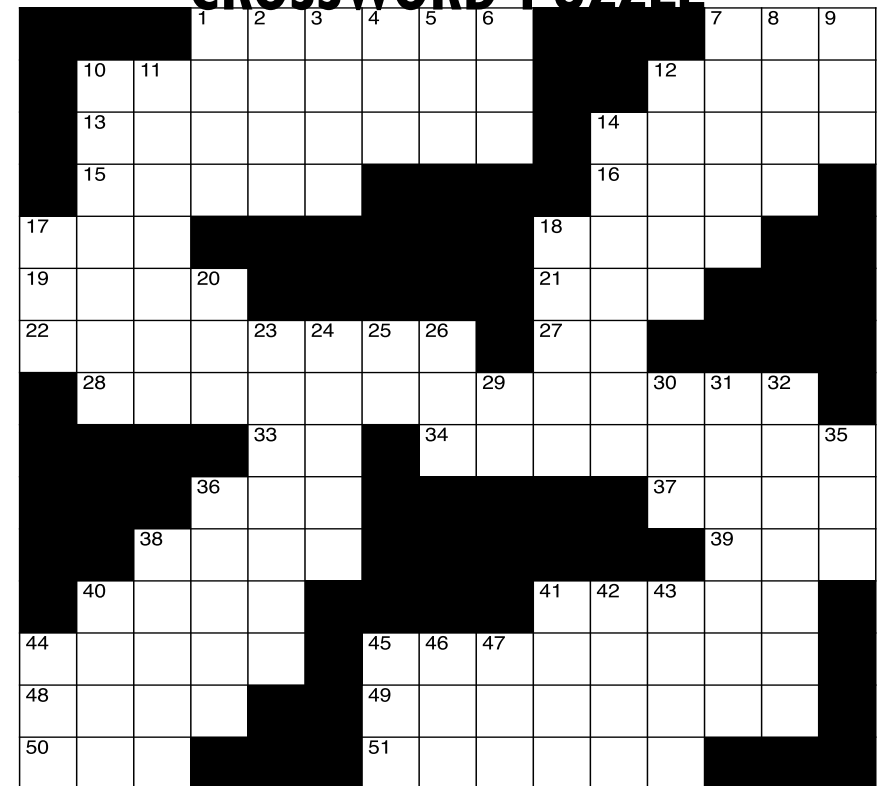
Montgomery County communities better places to live from the late-nineteenth century through the late twentieth century.

Later this fall, and in conjunction with its local history exhibit, the museum will host an event and ceremony to honor current leading women of Montgomery County in categories related to economic development, artistic merit, diversity, equity, and inclusion, women empowering women, and

community uplifter. This event will be in partnership with the 100+ Women Who Care NRV group.

"Charitable gifts such as the one we received from the Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust enable us to build and curate a museum that can properly tell everyone's story, and that's a very special feeling," Jenkins said. The museum also held a special donor reception and preview of the new exhibits in late September.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS
- Holds candles
 - In possession of
 - Rodents
 - Type of cofactor (Brit. sp.)
 - Hard candy on a stick
 - Animal of the weasel family
 - Things that should not be overlooked
 - "Silence" author
 - Dried, split lentils
 - People native to Ghana
 - Barros and Gasteyer are two
 - British thermal unit
 - Large oblong hall
 - Ethnic group in Asia
 - Holiday decoration
 - Milliliter
 - Open
 - Health physics concept (abbr.)
 - Tantric meditation
 - Where golf games begin
 - Birth swine
 - Rip
 - Remove
 - Puts together in time
 - Rotary engines
 - Skeletal structure
 - Member of a labor organization
 - Japanese classical theater
 - Undergarments
 - CLUES DOWN
 - "Snake Tales" cartoonist
 - Religious group
 - Singer Redding
 - ___ and tuck
 - Head honcho
 - Second sight
 - Composer
 - About aviation
 - Senior officer
 - Forecasts weather
 - Seasoned Hungarian soup
 - Town in Hesse, Germany
 - Thought to derive from meteorites
 - Hit lightly
 - Seemingly bottomless chasm
 - Title of respect
 - Warm up
 - Man and Wight are two
 - Type of scan
 - Atomic mass unit
 - Article
 - Incriminate
 - Passes by
 - Most nerve-inducing
 - David Alan Grier sitcom
 - Achieve
 - Freshwater fish
 - Beginner
 - Dark brown or black
 - A newlywed wears one
 - DiFranco and Vardanyan are two
 - Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
 - Ancient Egyptian King
 - Old name (abbr.)
 - Brazilian city (slang)

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Local NAACP branch holds Freedom Fund program

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP held its 46th Freedom Fund Program, "We Won't Go Back," on Oct. 1 at Asbury United Methodist Church and on Facebook Live. Some 40 invited guests attended in person, and more than 200 viewed on-line.

Mistress of Ceremonies Doris Bishop Kaine, welcomed the attendees after which Dr. Gena Chandler-Smith and her daughter, Nyala Smith, accompanied by Dr. Michael Herndon on Piano, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing." An invocation by branch religious affairs chair the Rev. Michael Sanborn followed.

Branch President Deborah Travis provided greetings and remembered members who passed on during the last year: Patricia Berger, Shirley Berger Lockhart, Isabel Berney, Josie Shotts, Kathrine Robinson, and the Rev. Christine Brownlee.

Next on the evening's program was the announcement of the winners of the Samuel H. Clark Scholarships of \$1000 each, to Kylee Eaves (from Blacksburg High School, attending New River Community College), Tyree Dobson (from Radford HS, attending Virginia Military Institute), Sean Herndon (from Christiansburg High School, attending the University of Richmond), Darius Wesley-Brubeck (from Christiansburg High School, attending the University of Arizona), and Jaxson Clarke (from Christiansburg High School, also attending Virginia Military Institute). Youth Council President Tyler Graves brought greetings from the youth.

Janet Hahn was recognized as a 2022 fully paid Silver Life Member by Membership Chair Roxie Palmer.

Following Jason Diggs II's solo rendition of "Stand," Branch President Travis and branch Secretary Shirley Akers recognized patrons of the evening's event and thanked them with baskets of books regarding African-American history and goods from African-American businesses. Branch benefactors at the \$1000 level were Asbury United Methodist Church, Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, and Moog, Inc.

Branch sustainers at the \$500 level were Carilion Clinic-New River Valley, the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and United Auto Workers, Local 2069.

Supporters at the \$300 level were Dr. Susan and Dr. Basil Gooden, Dr. William and Mary Lee Hendricks, Dr. Erogan and Mrs. Gunin Kiran, Dr. James Klage and the Rev. Kathy Carpenter, the Rev. Archie Richmond and Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, and St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Michael Herndon performed a piano medley of "Center of My Joy," "I Love You Lord Today," and "Amazing Grace."

The Nannie B. Hairston Award is awarded annually to an NAACP member of this branch who has served the community in a variety of ways and who has worked for justice for all people in support of the mission of the NAACP. This year's award went to Debbie Sherman-Lee of Christiansburg. The award was presented by Shirley Akers with the assistance of last year's winner, Dr. Wornie Reed.

Sherman-Lee grew up in Christiansburg, attended Christiansburg Institute briefly, and graduated from Christiansburg High School, later earning a degree in health and physical education. She went on to teach health and physical Education in Montgomery County's Public Schools for 36 years until she retired in 2010.

Over the years she was a member of the Community Group and the New Mountain Climbers and a volunteer with the Christmas Store. She has been instrumental in the Dialogue on Race, and the 100+ Women Who Care in the New River Valley. She is a longtime member of Asbury United Methodist Church, and she currently serves as chairperson of the Christiansburg Institute, Inc. In 2017, she received the NAACP Branch's Community Service Award in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop introduced the evening's keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. William Lee, who retired after 39 years as pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church. Dr. Lee is the founding director and current treasurer of New Horizons Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Care Center in Roanoke. He has been awarded the Key to the City of Roanoke three times, including 2011 when he was named the Roanoke Citizen of the Year.

Rev. Lee's keynote address was titled "We won't go back, if..." He spelled out five conditions that need to be met to avoid a return to how things used to be.



"Lift Every Voice and Sing," was sung as a duet during the evening by Dr. Gena Chandler-Smith and her daughter Nyala Smith, accompanied by Dr. Michael Herndon on piano.



NAACP Youth Council President Tyler Graves brought greetings from the youth.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY-RADFORD CITY-FLOYD COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP
The Nannie B. Hairston Award, presented each year to a branch member who has worked for justice for all people in support of the NAACP's mission, went to Debbie Sherman-Lee of Christiansburg (left), presented by Shirley Akers (right), with the assistance of last year's winner, Dr. Wornie Reed (center).

1. If we get serious about voting. Rev. Lee took his parents to vote after the poll tax was repealed. A poll worker claimed that since his father was illiterate he could not vote, but Dr. Lee knew that he was allowed to read the ballot for and assist his father.

2. If we realize we are not yet a post-racial society. As far as we have come, still we must not equate advancement toward our goals with arrival.

3. If we work together and avoid a silo mentality. The 1963 March on Washington brought together ten different organizations under a "Big Tent." That historic event was possible only through the leadership of Bayard Rustin, a gay former communist conscientious objector, who worked behind the scenes because the other leaders of the movement were not willing to put him up front.

4. If we include everybody. Rev. Lee emphasized the importance of including children and youth, not just for appearance, but taking their ideas seriously. He recounted a time when he was concerned about youth in his own congregation using their phones during his sermon, only to find they were making posts on social media about his sermon, spreading his words far beyond the walls of his church.

5. If we have a succession plan. Some of us stay in power too long. It is important to leave office when people still want you to stay. We must prepare people to continue our work into the future.

Branch President Travis presented the Rev. Dr. Lee with a gift of appreciation. The banquet concluded with a benediction by Dr. Nathaniel Bishop.

Part circus, part science, 'Air Play' is a breathtaking homage to the power of air

Audiences of all ages are mesmerized by "Air Play," a fantastic fusion of circus and science. Coming to the Moss Arts Center on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 2 p.m., Acrobuffos brings a theatrical adventure complete with flying umbrellas, fabrics soaring over the audience, people-swallowing balloons, and swirling snow filling the stage.

A breathtaking homage to the power of air, the performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theater, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Creating beauty and inspiring laughter across cultures, the production has been seen on five continents by 150,000 people from the southernmost opera house in the world in Chile to London's Royal Festival Hall, Melbourne's State Theater, and Shanghai's Grand Theater and continues to tour.

Featuring stunning imagery, "Air Play" bounces on the edge of definition — part comedy, part sculpture, part theater. A circus-style, wordless adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, the genre-bending production transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty. Created by physical comedians Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone in collaboration with kinetic sculptor Daniel Wurtzel, "Air Play" was devised through years of experimentation with simple materials, movement, and technology.

Creators Bloom and Gelsone met at a circus in Afghanistan, became engaged while street performing in Scotland, married in China, and occasionally go home to New York City. Since 2005, they have created seven shows, competed in international circus festivals, performed in over 25



A kite soars through the air during a production of "Air Play."

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORENCE MONTMARE

countries, headlined at the Big Apple Circus, and were even featured on a postage stamp. Gelsone is a former ballerina who graduated from Princeton to become a clown; Bloom is a former juggler who

graduated from three clown schools, including receiving a Master of Fine Arts in physical theater.

~ News Messenger staff report

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Montgomery Board votes to eliminate Merchant's Capital Tax

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Monday night, Oct. 11, voted 4-3 to eliminate the Merchant's Capital Tax starting in 2023. Merchant's Capital is a tax on the value of inventory at \$3.05 per \$100 and is assessed at 20% of the actual value of inventory.

Currently, collection of this tax is estimated to total \$1.5 million for FY 2023, which is 0.7% of the county's budget. Elimination of the tax before 2023 would require a budget amendment.

The supervisors from their respective districts are Sara Bohn, District A; Sherri M. Blevins, District B and board chair; Steve Fijalkowski, District C; Todd King, District D; Darrell Sheppard District E; Mary Biggs, District F and board vice-chair; April DeMotts, District G.

District A Supervisor Sara Bohn's term of office expires on Dec. 31, 2025. She has served on the board since 2018. Her board assignments include the Public Service Authority, the Road Viewers Board, planning commission liaison, Library board liaison, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Montgomery County Sustainability Council.

District B supervisor and board chair Sherri Blevins's term of office

expires on Dec. 31, 2023. She has served on the board since 2019.

Self-employed, her board assignments include the AFD Advisory Board, liaison for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairview District Home Board, library board liaison, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (alternate), the Montgomery Regional Economic Development Commission (alternate), the Road Viewers Board, and school liaison.

District C Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski's term of office expires on Dec. 31, 2025. His first term began in 2018.

His board assignments include the Fairview District Home Board, the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, the New River Regional Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission liaison (alternate), Planning Commission liaison (alternate), the Public Service Authority Board, the Road Viewers Board, the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Transportation Safety Commission, and the Western Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

District D Supervisor Todd King is employed by New River Nissan and serves as an engineer and a volunteer firefighter for the Riner Fire Department.

He attended Montgomery County Public Schools. His term of office expires on Dec. 31, 2021. His first term began in 2014.

His board assignments include the Public Service Authority, the Fairview District Home Board (alternate), Planning Commission liaison (alternate), the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (alternate), the Road Viewers Board, school liaison (alternate), and the Social Services Board.

District E Supervisor Darrell Sheppard's term expires on Dec. 31, 2023. His first term began in 2016. He is a retired Virginia Tech police sergeant who worked in the Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department.

His board assignments include the Montgomery Regional Economic Development - Secretary/Treasurer, Road Viewers Board, Public Service Authority Board, the Road Viewers Board, and school liaison (alternate). He graduated from Blacksburg High School, New River community College, and completed various police science courses.

District F Supervisor and vice-chair Mary Biggs's term of office expires on Dec. 31, 2023. Her first term began in 1996.



Chair Sherri Blevins



Vice Chair Mary Biggs



Darrell Sheppard



Sara Bohn



Steve Fijalkowski



Todd King

Her board assignments include Montgomery Chamber of Commerce liaison (alternate), the Community Services Board, legislative liaison, MBC Development Corporation, the Metropolitan Planning Operation, the New River/Mt. Rogers Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Consortium Board, Public Service Authority - Secretary/Treasurer, Road Viewers Board, school liaison, Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, the Virginia Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority. The Western Virginia Regional Jail (alternate), and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Act Consortium Board. She is a school teacher having retired from Harding Elementary School in

Blacksburg. She also has B.S. and M.S. degrees in management, housing, and family development with emphasis on child development from Virginia Tech, and graduate courses in educational leadership from Radford University.

District G Supervisor April DeMotts's term expires on Dec. 31, 2023. Her first term began in 2016. She served as the Director of Business Administration for Taylor Hollow Construction and has a B.S. degree in housing, interior design, and resource management from Virginia Tech. She also earned certification as an apartment manager after attending the National Apartment Association Education Institute.

Her board assignments include the library board (alternate), the Montgomery County



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April DeMotts

Sustainability Council, the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority (alternate), the Montgomery Tourism Development Council, the NRV Economic Development Alliance. Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison, the Public Service Authority Board, and school liaison (alternate).

- Chamber of Commerce President Steve Baffuto

VDOT 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 - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. 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 98 to 109. 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 summer 2023.

ROUTE 605: Intermittent flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

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.

Botetourt County: Left lane closures on I-81 northbound between mile marker 147 and 149.

Montgomery County: Right lane closures in place for paving of I-81 southbound between mile marker 130 to 128.

Pulaski County: Right lane closures in place for paving of I-81 northbound between mile marker 102 to 104.

Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Periodically, exit 132 northbound may be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

Roanoke County: The exit 141 on-ramp on southbound I-81 may periodically be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT - Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Flagging operations may continue to be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane.

ROUTE 622 BRIDGE WORK CLOSURE - Route 622 (Bradshaw Road) is closed for a bridge maintenance project over Bradshaw Creek. The location of the bridge is 0.10 mile from the Roanoke County line and 2.0 miles from Route 623. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes and residents on the road will have access to their homes during the closure. The road is expected to be open on October 20.

ROUTE 8 EVENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION - Route 8 may experience heavy traffic on fall weekends due to congestion related to tourist events at local farms in the area. If possible, motorists should utilize detours to avoid traveling on Route 8 between Christiansburg and Riner during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT 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 is set to begin. 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. A 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:

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures at exit 137 are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will

be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

- Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141.
- Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

- Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
- Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

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 remain closed until before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. The opening scheduled for the end of September has been rescheduled due to the contractor encountering challenges with a slope on the project.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. 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 about 10-13 spaces

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

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 POTHOLE 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.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday October 27th @ 4 PM
Farm Land for Sale in Floyd VA
Laurel Branch Rd, Floyd VA 24091

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



Farm Land for sale in Floyd County VA. There are 8 offerings available being sold simultaneously. The tracts are located on Laurel Branch Road just outside the Town of Floyd. Great location convenient to Floyd, Christiansburg VA, Blacksburg VA, Radford VA & Hillsville VA. Land is mostly open farmland with great views and frontage on Dodd's Creek. Properties are great for building country homes or for farming. Bidders desiring multiple tracts will need to be high bidder on all tracts desired. Each offering will stay open until all bidding is complete and all offerings will close simultaneously. Easements for electricity available.

Offerings range from 5 to 65 acres. The 5 acre tract has a 2 BR, 1 BA Home on it.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Download Bidder Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore

at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

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 VaAuctionPro.com
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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

OBITUARIES

Linkous, Wayne Franklin

Wayne Franklin Linkous, 76, of law, Anthony and Dawn Linkous; Christiansburg, died Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, at his home.

He was born in Montgomery County on Feb. 6, 1946, to the late Ralph and Annie Mae Kanode Linkous.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Buck Linkous, and Roger Linkous; and sisters Betty Linkous, Arlene Reed, Carolyn Linkous, Faye Pyles, and Teresa Redd.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce B. Linkous; a son and daughter-in-



a grandchild, Sheridan Bishop; a sister and brother-in-law, Bonnie and Johnny Puckett; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were conducted Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, in the Sunset Cemetery with the Rev. Phillip Martin officiating. The family received friends Thursday evening at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg.

Long, Nannie Faye

Nannie Faye Long, 87, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, at her home.

She was born in Montgomery County on May 28, 1935, to the late Maury Richard, Sr. and Hazel Surface Long.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Bobby Joe Long, Kenneth Long, Freddie Long, and Maury Long, Jr., and



her sisters, Elizabeth "Tootsie" Long and Almeta Long Cook. She is survived by her brother, Sammy Long, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, in the Zack Price/ James R. Long Cemetery with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating.

See Obituaries, page 8

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.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

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

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.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 nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, 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 Sonaf Frank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is 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 540-533-5365 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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

1 John 3:1-3

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10:19-23

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

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

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also,

partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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.centralmethodist-church.com.

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

WESLEYAN

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

Obituaries from page 7

Stafford, Louise Wright

Louise Wright Stafford, 102, of Fairlawn, passed away Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022.

Louise was born in Glade Springs, Va., and moved with her parents to Radford when she was six months old. She joined First Baptist Church in Radford in 1940 and over the years served her Lord in Sunday School, as a member of circle and WMU, and on many committees of the church. She was also a member of the Wildwood Garden Club and a 50-year member of the Eastern Star. Louise retired from Leggett's Dept Store where she worked for many years. She was an avid fan of the Radford Bobcats and the VT Hokies.

Louise was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother but she will best be remembered for her faith, love, care, and support of and for her family and for all who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bill; her daughter, Ann Sutton; her son, Bill Stafford, Jr.; her parents, James Cleveland and Lucille Bonham Wright; two sisters and eight brothers.

She is survived by a special grandson and his wife, Kirk and Tanya Sutton; a great-granddaughter, Haley Ann Sutton;



step-great-grandchildren, Aaron and Megan Leonard and Madison Bland; a daughter-in-law, Mildred "Mert" Stafford; a special niece, Donna Gilmore, and her husband Guy; and special friends Mitzi (an "adopted daughter") and her husband Wayne Barnett, Nelson Sifford, and Barbara Newcomb; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Jessie and the rest of the Intrepid Hospice group, Alisha Hoops and Jody Mills, for their compassion and care for the last few months.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, at the First Baptist Church. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Kent Taylor and the Rev. Jim Baucom officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Fairlawn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Radford Fire and Rescue, 1500 Wadsworth St., Radford, VA 24141 or to First Baptist Church, 215 Third Ave., Radford, VA 24141.

The Stafford family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Webb, Dency Mae

Dency Mae Webb, 85, of Pulaski, Jeter, and Kalianah Jeter; a brother, Aaron Webb; sisters Martha Olverson and Lydia Wade; a special friend, Julie Webb; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



She was a member of Randolph United Methodist Church and retired from Pulaski Furniture. She was preceded in death by her parents, Isaac Webb and Bertha Carter Davidson; a son, Robert Webb; five brothers, and three sisters.

Survivors include her daughters, Cheryl Webb (Jerry Hardy), Betty Jeter and Patricia Adams; grandchildren Eric Webb, Lekeshia Webb, Roger Adams, and David Jeter, Jr.; great-grandchildren, Erika Webb, Eriyah Webb, Briella

Church in Pulaski. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Douglas Patterson officiating. Interment will follow in Pinehurst Cemetery in Pulaski.

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

Study: Virginia is the best state to work in tech

A new study from document management company SmallPDF recently analyzed data such as salaries, employment rates, and vacancies in the tech field across every US state and ranked Virginia as the best state to work in right now.

The company found that Virginia is the best state to work in tech right now due to high average wages in the computer and mathematical occupations field with \$110,510 a year, with 58.44 persons employed in the field per 1,000 jobs, and the highest current tech vacancies with 128.97 openings per 100,000 people in the industry. When measuring the average salary against the average annual rent spend, those employed in the field would be spending only 21.68% of their salary on rent. Those wanting to work in tech remotely also have lots of options with 27,563 remote

openings available at the time of the study.

Maryland came in second with the mid-Atlantic state boasting high salaries of \$110,790 on average with 54.35 tech jobs per 1,000 jobs, and 116.27 vacancies for every 100,000 people. Being employed with the average tech salary combined with the average annual rent spend meant that those in the field would be putting only 9.97% of their salary towards rent, one of the lowest numbers of any state on the list. The state also had 27,139 remote tech openings available, for those wanting to work from home.

The state of Washington was found to have the highest number of jobs in tech per 1,000 with 59.32, as well as the highest average salary of any state with \$124,000 a year. However, due to the lower number of vacancies available - 61.69 per 100,000 people, which is just half the rate in Virginia - it only comes in third. Estimations show that 21.24% of average tech wages in the state will be spent on rent. There were found to be 27,546 remote tech jobs available at the time of the study as well.

The study found that the worst state for tech workers is Mississippi with low tech salaries on average of \$70,870 a year, low tech employment with 11.857 per 1,000 jobs, and the lowest number of tech vacancies with only 16.03 vacancies per 100,000 people.

According to the study, the top 10 states for tech and the annual salary are 1. Virginia \$110,510 2. Maryland \$110,790 3. Washington \$124,000 4. Colorado \$104,210 5. Massachusetts \$112,270 6. Delaware \$102,000 7. Minnesota \$96,290 8. New Jersey \$108,800 9. Utah \$86,600 10. Nebraska \$81,090

Commenting on the findings, a spokesperson for SmallPDF said: "It's fascinating to see how many states are nowadays offering solid salaries in tech jobs, as well as lots of opportunities, especially in the northeast regions of the United States. With the increase in remote working, we're relying more than ever on technology to ensure our work processes are smooth and easy, from collaborating on documents to digitally signing contracts."

- SmallPDF.com

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Aluminum Insulated Wire	\$0.13
Brass	\$0.12
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Copper (#2)	\$2.00
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Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104 Case No. CM19000119-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073. Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ESTATE OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE RIGHTFUL HEIRS OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III. It is ORDERED that THE HEIRS OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before NOVEMBER 30, 2022 at 10:00a.m.

Signed: ERICA W. CONNER, CLERK.

Legals - Montgomery County

prepare the 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER is an evaluation and performance report detailing accomplishments toward meeting the goals outlined in the 5-year Consolidated Plan. The CAPER compares the actual performance measures with those measures listed in the 2021 Annual Action Plan. Public Comments will be received through November 15, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to receive comments on Council's intention to adopt the 2021 CDBG CAPER. A draft copy of the 2021 CDBG CAPER is available for review ending November 15, 2022 and may be viewed in the Office of the Town Manager, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, a draft electronic copy is available on the Town's Web Site. Any interested party whose participation in this meeting would require reasonable accommodation of a handicap or language services should contact Andrew Warren at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awaren@christiansburg.org.

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Legals - Montgomery County

Storage Unit Sale

Auburn Self Storage located at 796 Auburn Avenue, Radford, Virginia will host a storage unit sale on Saturday, October 22, 2022 @ 10:00 am, registration begins at 9:30 am. The contents of the storage units will be sold off in an attempt to collect delinquent storage fees. Contents will be sold by the UNIT for the following: Unit sizes: 5x10: B-1, B-4, & C-12 10x10: B-9 & B-16 10x15: A-2, A-12, & A-14 10x20: B-31 & C-7 Units available for sale are subject to change due to customer payment prior to sale.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Hokies ready to defend the rings in 2022-23

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The reigning, defending ACC Tournament titleholders, Virginia Tech men's basketball team officially received their championship rings at a recent home football game. But this week, the label was used over and over again during ACC Media Days in Charlotte, N.C.

On-air personalities from the ACC Network asked Coach Mike Young where his ring was, and he told them it was just too "big" to wear.

"I probably won't ever wear it...it's in a safe place at home," he said with a chuckle.

Young said being last year's tournament champs has come up a lot especially during this week's interviews.

"It comes up a lot, and I want it to come up more," he said. "But there comes a time when those wonderful experiences with a group of people that I admired so much, with some luck and good health, we'll get back together 10 years from now, 20 years from now, and it'll be a lot of fun."

But putting all this success aside, Young said this year's team also has a lot that they want to accomplish.

"This team has put a lot of work in through the summer months and through the fall, and I'm just as excited about this team's potential and prospects as I've ever been," the coach said.

For the first time in four years, Young will not be able to look down his bench for Keve Aluma, who followed him to Tech from Wofford.

"Yeah, I've had the incredible chance to coach a lot of really good ones, and this team is not last year's team. This team is different. The personality is different. Aluma was a really talented player. Bailed us out, was that shot clock, gets low on a number of occasions," he said.

Now, the 20-year head coach (his fourth in Blacksburg) will lean on Mutts and Cattoor. "I am convinced that we'll figure it out. It will be different a little bit. I don't think dramatically. We're not going to change how we play."

"He (Aluma) was talented, but there should be -- you hope there are always other talented people coming through the ranks, and I think that's where we are with this team and this current Virginia Tech team," Young said.

It could be easier to sell his program to future players and the fans at large as a "champion brand" as opposed to when he came in and started, than just a challenger one.

"That part of it's great and a real tribute, again, to our players, Justyn, Hunter, that team, and what a magic carpet ride that was," Young said. "It was not blue skies and smooth waters through

a lot of that time, but when it mattered most, they stayed the course. They hung in there. They trusted the process.

"We get to Brooklyn playing good basketball and win it. It's been a real shot in the arm for our basketball program, for Southwest Virginia, and as I've said many times it was a pleasure to be a small part of it," he said.

While this year's team doesn't necessarily start from scratch, several new faces have put in a lot of time together in the past six months. "It's such a luxury, and it's still new to me. Justyn wasn't with us the first session of summer school, but 10 of the players were. We had our entire team together, the '22-'23 team together, in the second semester of summer school. We can do a lot with them on the floor. We don't overdo it because it's such a long year, but you get a real pulse for that team, for that next team," Young said.

During that same ACC Network interview, the coach told onlookers his team is not that good or maybe championship material as of yet. But they will get there, and he is optimistic about this year's finish line.

A key cog could have come to Blacksburg via the transfer portal.

6-9, 225-pound forward Grant Basile came to Blacksburg after spending his first four years at Wright State. The All-Horizon League second-team selection as a redshirt junior, Basile averaged 18.4 points, 8.5 rebounds, two assists and 1.6 blocks in 32.6 minutes per game. He shot 49.8 percent from the floor and posted 11 double-doubles in 36 outings.

Basile finished ranked in the top 25 among DI players in field goals made (eighth), points (20th) and rebounds (22nd). He started every game for the Raiders, who won 22 games and the Horizon League tournament title. Basile dialed up 21 points in an 87-70 loss to No. 1 seed Arizona in the 2022 NCAA Tournament first round.

The Pewaukee, Wisconsin, native amassed 1,228 career points and 616 career rebounds at Wright State while being named to the All-Horizon League second team twice. He chose the Hokies over Notre Dame, Wisconsin, and Iowa State.

Basile transfers into Tech as a graduate student with two years of eligibility remaining. Also, John Camden from Memphis and Mylyjael Poteat from Rice have joined the Hokie roster.

All of this comes with one of the best recruiting classes ever to come to Blacksburg.

The Hokies finished last season ranked 24th in the country in scoring defense, allowing 62.8 points per game.

Virginia Tech opens its season at home on Monday, Nov. 7, against Delaware State.

FROM THE SIDELINES

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Basketball is quickly grabbing the attention of Virginia Tech football fans, and many are starting to wonder if the school is finally becoming a basketball institution and not just that of the gridiron.

The reigning ACC champions were on full display in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, as Coach Mike Young and Hokies, Hunter Cattoor and Justyn Mutts participated in the 2022 ACC Tipoff.

Young kicked off the day on set with the ACC Network crew, discussing last year's ACC Tournament run and giving an outlook on the 2022-23 season.

With the backward slide of the football program, fans have turned to the basketball court, and the program's popularity is seen through continued ticket sales. A lot of fans say this upward slide is thanks to Young's hiring.

Past players have praised Young for his style of play, and Cattoor repeated similar sentiments in front of reporters Wednesday.

"That's what makes Mike Young such a good

coach: the confidence that he instills in all of us," Cattoor said. "[If] you miss eight shots in a row, he's going to tell you to keep shooting the next one. So, him just putting confidence out there and us going out there, we were ready for that game. We were ready for that moment. None of us were scared and we were ready to win," the returning sharpshooter said.

Young's teams have made the NCAA Tournament in seven of the last 12 seasons, including being the fastest Virginia Tech coach to make The Dance.

Of course, last year he led the Hokies to their first ACC championship. The Radford native is a two-time National Coach of the Year, earning the status in 2010 (Hugh Durham Award) and 2019 (Sporting News).

His leadership has changed the tide or shall we say the way of thinking about basketball in Blacksburg.

More than a dozen games were sold out last season, and already the dates are looking similar this season, one that has

not even started.

Earlier this month, the Virginia Tech athletics department announced that conference-only season- ticket packages have sold out ahead of the Hokies' 2022-23 season. That means all ACC home games are now officially sold out, and the excitement could raise the roof of Cassell Coliseum.

Of course, the home schedule could also attract a lot of attention. Virginia Tech opens its league slate at Cassell Coliseum on Sunday, Dec. 4 vs. North Carolina.

In all, the Hokies host six ACC weekend games to go along with a Big Monday showdown vs. Duke on Jan. 23 in a rematch of last season's ACC title game. Commonwealth Clash rival Virginia will also visit Cassell Saturday, Feb. 4.

Tech's conference opener vs. North Carolina marks the third straight season the Hokies will open ACC play at home, and the first time opening against UNC since the 2009-10 season (That game was in Chapel Hill.) The last time VT and UNC squared off in a conference opener in Blacksburg was Tech's inaugural ACC game on Dec. 19, 2004.

Kitley returns, Lady Hokies optimistic

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Liz Kitley is back to lead a Lady Hokies basketball team that finished 23-10 last season, losing to N.C. State in the ACC Tournament semifinals.

Kitley was a key in the successful run but missed the N.C. State game because of an injury in the quarterfinals.

Last season, Elizabeth (her given name) Kitley was among the league leaders in scoring (18.1), rebounds (9.8), blocks (2.4) and field goal percentage (.551) throughout the season. Her 15 double-doubles led the conference as did her 13 games with 20 or more points. She scored 34 points twice and finished the season with a 42-point performance in the NCAA Tournament, the second-most points ever scored in the opening round of the competition. She recorded four or more blocks in nine different contests. Her 237 made field goals set a program record for a single season.

She also ranks ninth all-time at VT in scoring (1,410), fifth in rebounds (800), and third in blocks (187). She is also a two-time first-team All-ACC member, and a two-time Lisa Leslie Award Finalist. She has been on the ACC All-Academic Team three straight years.

Last year's ACC player of the year could find herself with some help this season with the transfer of 6-3 Clara Ford from Boston College. Ford could provide a one-two punch the Lady Hokies have never had. While she started only one

game, Ford does provide a much-needed backup to Kitley.

Five key pieces from last year's team have transferred or left. Thus, Head Coach Kenny Brooks will have to reload from the bottom up.

Two more players with experience have also found their way to Blacksburg: 6-0 guard Ashley Owusu was an All-American at the University of Maryland. She was named to the All-Big 10 first team with a scoring average of 14.3 points per game.

Taylor Soule followed Ford from BC where she was in the starting lineup for 33 games, averaged 16.2 points per game and was second-team All-ACC.

Also back is Georgia Amooe, a 5-5 guard from Australia, who started all 33 games and averaged 11.2 points 4.4 assists, per game, the second-most in the ACC. She shot 40% from beyond the arc to lead the conference, making 70 treys. She played all 45 minutes in an epic OT victory over North Carolina in the ACC Tournament, and her crossover 3-pointer against Georgia Tech earned her notice as SportsCenter's Top Play of the day.

During the ACC media kickoff earlier this week, Brooks said building a roster full of depth still remains a work in progress.

"Obviously, coming here seven years ago into the ACC I knew that number one, you must have really good players, and you must have a lot of them," Brook

See Kitley, page 10

Blacksburg wins second straight state golf title



PHOTO COURTESY OF BHS

Blacksburg High School's golf team brought home its second straight state title this past week. The Bruins were led by Jake Albert, who shot a 4-under par 68 to finish as the state individual runner-up, and Pierce Campbell who shot an even-par 72 to make the All-State Team. Also contributing to the team's 1-over-par score of 289 were Connor Catterson's 74 and Samantha Skinner's 75. Sean Ruan and Major Ewing also performed well, carding 76's.

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Blacksburg defeats Salem in volleyball



Blacksburg senior Rylee Sloss connects on a kill against Salem Tuesday night in a 3-set sweep of the Spartans 25-19, 25-11, and 25-11.



Blacksburg's Ella Poff tips a shot over the net against Salem.



Blacksburg's Katy Mathena passes to the front line against Salem



Blacksburg's Alexis Hamborsky celebrates a Bruin point with her team on Senior Night. PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Kitley from page 9

said. "We were always battling and getting to the point where we'd come up a little bit short just because of depth. You see amazing teams in the ACC and amazing coaches who put together tremendous rosters. We figured out exactly what we wanted, the culture we wanted, the style, and the kind of players we wanted representing our university, and we went out to get them. It really kind of started with their class, Elizabeth's class, and we changed

the culture," he said.

Brooks told reporters his coaching staff brought in players who fit the scheme of what they wanted to do, both on and off the court.

"These young ladies represent our program to the utmost in front of thousands of fans, but they represent our program behind the scenes with the work that they do, not only in the community and their schoolwork, and

they epitomize what it is to be a student-athlete. When you can have players that can do both, I think you're going to generate success, and that's what's happened to us," the coach said.

"We have the experience. We have the depth. We have the talent, but more so we have the chemistry," Brooks said. "We brought in some amazing players with these young ladies, and all they want to do is blend in. No one's trying to do something out of their character. They all just want to blend in because they're all fighting for the same goal, and that's to become ACC champions," Brooks said.

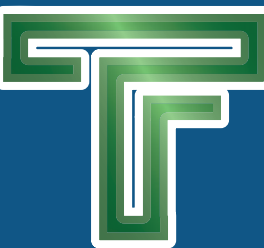
Kitley knows there are a lot of eyes on her this season as she works to become an even bigger leader for her team.

"I am working a lot on leadership," she said. "We have these new pieces that are coming in and they're excellent, but it's a different system here. I think our role is really to help them get acclimated and teach them new things. And having freshmen also, too. So, just forming a cohesive unit, that is my goal," Kitley said.

The 6-6 center from Summerfield, North Carolina also sang Coach Brooks's praise in elevating the VT program.

The Hokies, who are ranked No. 13 by ESPN in its preseason poll, begin their season on Monday, Nov. 7 versus Mount St. Mary's.

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*Annual Percentage Yield adjusts weekly based on 75% of the 13 week T-Bill rate. APY is accurate as of 10/7/2022. Minimum balance of \$25,000 is required to avoid a \$19.00 monthly service fee. \$50.00 minimum deposit required to open account. Fees will reduce earnings. Please see a Community Bank Manager or Customer Service Representative for further information about applicable fees and terms.





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